Bengaluru Wednesday, May 20, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 139 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Pant removed as Test vice-captain

Stumper dropped from ODIs, Rahul named Gill's deputy in Tests

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World

US may hit Iran again, warns Trump P.12

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Court rejects Umar Khalid's bail plea to care for ailing mother P.11

Business

Global AI spending to double P.13

State

Parties seek extension of SIR P.5

SC allows for euthanasia of 'dangerous dogs'

Warns of contempt for non-compliance of directions

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Court says it cannot overlook incidents of dog bites, including cases of children being mauled
- States must take decisive steps for enhancing and augmenting necessary infrastructure for ABC framework
- Problem exacerbated due to a lack of effort in scaling up resources to keep pace with growing population of dogs
- Ensure adequate availability of anti-rabies vaccine in all government medical facilities
- Right to live with dignity under Article 21 necessarily encompasses every citizen's right to move freely without constant apprehension of physical harm

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said unchecked dog bite incidents could push civic life into a harsh regression, where Darwin's principle of "survival of the fittest" becomes the governing law of public spaces.

The court allowed euthanasia for rabid, incurably ill, or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs to curb the threat to human life.

It said the authorities may resort to euthanasia in areas where the stray dog population has reached alarming proportions and where frequent dog bites pose a continuing threat to public safety.

The bench warned that non-compliance to the directions of this court shall be viewed seriously. Contempt proceedings, disciplinary proceedings and tortious liability shall be initiated against states for noncompliance, it stated.

The top court dismissed pleas to modify its November 2025 order on removing all stray dogs from institutional areas like schools, hospitals, and railway stations.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria cited data from across the country on stray dog bite incidents, noting that these incidents have caused increasing concern among people.

The bench said such incidents affect public confidence in civic administration and urban governance.

Justice Mehta said, "The figures viewed cumulatively reveal staggering dimensions of the problem and underscore... the harm caused by such incidents is not really statistical in nature, but has grave human, societal and public health consequences."

The bench said the right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution necessarily encompasses every citizen's right to move freely and access public spaces without living under constant apprehension of physical harm, attack, or exposure to life-threatening events, such as dog bites in public areas.

The court said if dog bite incidents go unchecked, the inevitable consequence may lead to a regression towards a state where Darwinian theory of evolution—namely, survival of the fittest—would effectively govern civic life and public spaces.

"Such a situation would be wholly incompatible with a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law. The Constitution does not envisage a society where children, the elderly, and vulnerable citizens are compelled to survive at the mercy of physical strength, chance, or circumstances, owing to the failure of state machinery to discharge its constitutional and statutory obligations," the bench said.

The court also issued a slew of directions in the matter, including that states/UTs should take measures to enforce the Animal Welfare Board of India Rules.

▸ Stray dogs, Page 8
Related reports, Page 2, 10

Second shock as petrol, diesel up by 90p a litre

NEW DELHI, PTI

A worker fills a motorcycle's tank in New Delhi on Tuesday. REUTERS

Petrol and diesel prices were raised by about 90 paise per litre on Tuesday - the second increase in less than a week - as state-run fuel retailers moved to narrow mounting losses triggered by a sharp surge in global crude oil prices following the West Asia conflict.

Petrol price in New Delhi rose to Rs 98.64 per litre from Rs 97.77, while diesel rate increased to Rs 91.58 from Rs 90.67 a litre, according to industry sources.

The latest increase follows a Rs 3-per-litre hike on Friday - the first fuel price revision in more than four years.

The back-to-back increases come after global crude oil prices surged more than 50% since late February following US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Fuel retailers had kept pump prices low despite rising input costs, a move the government said was aimed at shielding consumers from inflation. Opposition parties, however, accused the government of delaying price revisions until after key state elections.

Despite the hikes, fuel retailers continue to absorb significant losses. Petroleum Ministry's Joint Secretary, Sujata Sharma said on Monday that the May 15 increase reduced losses by about a fourth, but state-run oil firms were still losing around Rs 750 crore per day.

According to Crisil, oil marketing companies were losing about Rs 10 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 per litre on diesel even after the earlier hike.

Prices vary across states due to local taxes.

4 projects, Rs 4.5L-cr investment: Maha bets big on N-energy

Units in Konkan to generate 20k MW energy, provide 1.2 lakh jobs

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

MEGA PROJECTS

- **Adani Power Ltd and Coastal-Maha Atomic Energy Ltd:** 6,000 MW power, Rs 1.5 lakh crore investment, employment potential 12,000 jobs
- **Reliance Industries Ltd:** Two units of 220 MW each to six units of 1,200 MW each, investments ranging between Rs 8,000 crore and Rs 2 lakh crore, to create over one lakh employment opportunities
- **NTPC Ltd:** Generation capacity between 4,000 MW and 7,200 MW, investment worth around Rs 1 lakh crore, employment potential around 5,000 jobs

In a major nuclear energy push, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday signed memoranda of understanding with Reliance Industries Ltd, Adani Power Ltd and its subsidiary Coastal-Maha Atomic Energy Ltd and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) involving investments of up to Rs 4.5 lakh crore.

The proposed projects together are expected to generate over 20,000 MW of electricity and create nearly 1.2 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, transforming the Konkan coast, which is renowned for its beaches, Alphonso mangoes, cashew plantations and ecologically rich Arabian Sea shoreline.

The latest nuclear push comes even as the ambitious Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project, being developed by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) in collaboration with France's EDF, continues to position the Konkan region as the country's emerging atomic energy hub.

The proposed 9,900 MW Jaitapur project in Rajapur in the Ratnagiri district — regarded as one of the world's largest planned nuclear power plants — along with the newly announced projects, could make the Konkan belt one of India's biggest nuclear energy clusters. Locals had protested the project in the past.

Adani Power Ltd and Coastal-Maha Atomic Energy Ltd have proposed setting up a 6,000 MW nuclear power project in Ratnagiri district with an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore and employment potential of 12,000 jobs.

▸ N-plants, Page 8

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Tumakuru as B'luru North? HM sparks buzz with proposal

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Tuesday signalled its intent to fold Tumakuru into Bengaluru's expanding urban footprint after Home Minister G Parameshwara pitched his district as 'Bengaluru North'.

Parameshwara, who is the minister in charge of Tumakuru, vowed to ensure that his district became a part of Bengaluru.

"Our Tumakuru district is very close to Bengaluru. It is only 60 km away. My demand is that Tumakuru should become a part of Bengaluru," Parameshwara said at the *Samarpane Sankalpa*, the government event to mark Congress completing three years in power held in Tumakuru.

Parameshwara

"Just like Ramanagara was made Bengaluru South, Tumakuru should be declared as Bengaluru North," Parameshwara insisted. "Going forward, Tumakuru will become a part of Bengaluru and I am making all efforts on this."

Parameshwara, who represents Koratagere in Tumakuru, also said a plan was ready to provide metro rail connectivity to Tumakuru, and urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar to fulfil this.

Parameshwara's demand found support from Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Urban Development minister. "Parameshwara has said that the only solution to decongest Bengaluru is towards the north by making Tumakuru the second Bengaluru. I want to join hands with [Parameshwara] on this," he said.

If Parameshwara manages to prevail over the Cabinet to meet his demand, the government will have to clarify on the nomenclature for Tumakuru.

In July 2025, the Cabinet decided to call the Bengaluru Rural district as 'Bengaluru North'.

Thanks to road connectivity via NH48, Tumakuru has grown to become an industrial hub over time. Tumakuru is one of the nodes being developed under the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC). Tumakuru already has a Japanese industrial township at Vasanthanarsapura.

▸ Tumakuru, Page 8

Modi, Nordic leaders seek end to conflicts, forge green strategic ties

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Narendra Modi

Seeking an early end to the conflicts in West Asia as well as between Russia and Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterparts in the five Nordic countries on Tuesday called for a global order based on international law that promotes peace, stability, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

Modi met Prime Ministers Jonas Gahr Støre of Norway, Ulf Kristersson of Sweden, Mette Frederiksen of Denmark, Petteri Orpo of Finland and Kristrún Frostadóttir of Iceland for the third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo.

They agreed to turn India's ties with Nordic nations into a strategic partnership focussed on green technology and innovation.

"Through this green technology partnership, we will combine Iceland's expertise in geothermal energy and fisheries, Norway's expertise in the blue economy and the Arctic, and all Nordic countries' expertise in maritime affairs and sustainability with India's scale," Modi said.

▸ Modi, Page 8

OFF TRACK

Three coaches of the Ujjaini Express derailed on Monday night in Rishikesh in Uttarakhand. No one was injured in the accident. PTI

RTC unions call off stir after high court ruling

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of trade unions associated with state-run transport corporations has called off the strike they had initially proposed on May 20, in light of the Karnataka High Court restraining transport unions from going on an indefinite strike.

The high court issued instructions while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition to restrain the proposed strike. The PIL was filed by a domestic worker and a construction worker under the claim that their livelihoods would be affected as a result of the bus strike.

Details on Page 4

Quickly

Dubare jumbo Marthanda succumbs to injuries

Marthanda, the 53-year-old elephant which had suffered multiple injuries during the attack by 26-year-old elephant Kanjan, died at Dubare Elephant Camp in Kushalnagar taluk on Tuesday. "There were deep wounds at five to six places. Despite treatment, it could not be saved," a Veterinary doctor said.

Details on Page 5

India to monitor Boeing fuel switch test

Indian officials plan to travel to Seattle to observe Boeing's testing of a fuel-control switch panel that was removed from an Air India 787 in February after the pilots on a London-Bengaluru flight flagged a possible defects.

Details on Page 13

PF withdrawal soon via UPI

EPFO subscribers will soon be able to withdraw their employees' provident fund and transfer it directly to their bank accounts through the UPI payment gateway, as testing of the facility has been completed, said Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The minister stated that EPFO is taking various initiatives to improve the quality of service delivery.

Indian diplomat found dead in B'desh

An official of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh's Chattogram was found dead in the mission on Tuesday. He has been identified as Naren Dhar, who was serving as an Assistant Protocol Officer.

Details on Page 12

NRI held with illegal ammo in B'luru hotel

JC Nagar police have arrested a 34-year-old NRI for allegedly possessing seven unused bullets, which he illegally carried into the country, in the city. The suspect has been identified as Arman Muthahar, (34).

Details on Page 2

Falta repoll: Jahangir withdraws

In a dramatic twist, Falta's Trinamool Congress candidate Jahangir Khan on Tuesday withdrew from the May 21 repoll, a move that could virtually hand the BJP a walkover.

Details on Page 9

SQUALLY WEATHER

High moisture content fuelling thunderstorms in state: IMD

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Pre-monsoon showers

- Current weather pattern is favourable for formation of widespread thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain and lightning
- Copious pre-monsoon showers have reduced the rainfall deficit
- As of May 19, the overall state average rainfall stood at a 2% deficit, an improvement from the 11% deficit a week ago

A combination of high temperatures and abundant atmospheric moisture is triggering intense thunderstorm activity in the state.

According to N Puviarasan, Head of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Bengaluru Centre, the current weather pattern is favourable for the formation of widespread thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain, lightning and gusty winds.

He says the intense showers are primarily due to the high moisture content available, combined with rising daytime temperatures across the state.

"The temperature over interior Karnataka (both north and south) has remained significantly high during the daytime. At the same time, substantial moisture is incursion from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. This combination is creating atmospheric instability, leading to intense thunderstorm activity and heavy pre-monsoon showers," he said.

He explained that the sharp heating of land surfaces during summer causes warm air to rise rapidly. When moisture-laden winds enter the region, resulting in sudden evening showers and thunderstorms.

Puviarasan said that a one-degree increase in temperature leads to a 7 mm increase in moisture content in the air, resulting in a higher quantity of pre-monsoon showers.

Meteorologists say such conditions are typical during the pre-monsoon season, but this year the rainfall intensity has been higher in coastal and north interior Karnataka.

Copious pre-monsoon showers have reduced the rainfall deficit in Karnataka.

As of May 19, the overall state average rainfall stood at a 2% deficit, an improvement from the 11% deficit a week ago. Against the normal pre-monsoon showers of 85 mm rainfall, the coastal districts received 110 mm of rainfall.

North interior Karnataka received 67 mm of rainfall against a normal of 54 mm. South interior Karnataka usually receives 102 mm of rainfall in a normal year; however, in April-May, it received only 71 mm. The Malnad region received only 106 mm instead of the average of 119 mm of rainfall.

Puviarasan said the state could witness such highly intense thundershowers in the north for the next two days before subduing across the state.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE FIVE CITY CORPORATIONS

- Trim and remove dangerous and vulnerable trees
- Identify weak and dangerous compound walls
- Desilt and maintain storm water drains
- Prioritise finishing ongoing road works and fill potholes
- Identify flood-prone areas and undertake temporary prevention measures
- Control rooms set up at sub-division levels
- Dedicated team to be constituted at the division level

MEASURES BY BWSSB

- Manholes to be desilted and cleaned within end of May
- Crackdown on illegal connections letting rainwater into sewerage network

STEPS BY BESCOM

- Vulnerable points with slanting poles, sagging wires, and dangerous trees identified; and corrective measures taken
- Preventive maintenance of 11kV lines and transformers completed

Pre-monsoon showers test civic readiness

RAIN ALERT: Control rooms set up, emergency response teams rolled out across city

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The pre-monsoon showers have exposed gaps in the city's preparedness, with flooding reported at several locations after recent rain spells.

The five city corporations have now stepped up monsoon preparedness measures, issuing deadlines and launching works to ensure the city is ready before heavy rains intensify.

From desilting drains and completing roadworks to forming inter-departmental coordination teams, a range of measures have been put in place, officials said.

The pre-monsoon showers also exposed how dried leaves and mud had clogged roadside drains, triggering flooding in some areas.

"All the corporations have been asked to clean and desilt the drains. I have directed officials to ensure that the dry leaves are removed from the gratings, and mud on the roadside is also removed," GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao told *DH*.

All city corporation commissioners have also directed officials to identify vulnerable points and take corrective measures immediately.

Permanent control rooms have been established under each city corporation, while temporary control rooms are being set up at the sub-divisional level.

Each division has a dedicated team to attend to rain-related complaints. The teams have been equipped with pumps and other machinery to respond to emergencies, officials said.

Many city roads remain dug up, which could create major problems for commuters during the rainy season. Corporations have, therefore, been asked to prioritise roadworks and complete them at the earliest.

Corporations have also formed inter-departmental teams to ensure coordination with the BWSSB, Bescom, and fire and emergency services.

Some corporations have also started communication channels with residents' welfare associations to gather information about local complaints and issues.

M MAHESHWAR RAO
GBA Chief Commissioner

"All the corporations have been asked to clean and desilt the drains. I have directed officials to ensure that the dry leaves are removed from the gratings, and mud on the roadside is also removed.

A broken tree branch blocks a road at Nagashettyhalli a day after heavy rain lashed the city, on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Bescom completes preventive maintenance of power infrastructure

BENGALURU, DHNS: The heavy pre-monsoon showers on April 29 damaged power infrastructure and blacked out several areas.

To improve preparedness ahead of the monsoon, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) has taken up several preventive maintenance activities.

"This includes consistent and continuous patrolling of 11kV lines, secondary lines, and distribution transformers," a senior Bescom official said.

Officials have also taken corrective measures on slanting polls and other vulnerable points.

"The vulnerable locations such as slant poles, deteriorated poles, trimming of tree branches near HT/LT lines, sagging of lines are identified and corrective measures are being taken immediately," the official added.

Maintenance week

Bescom also conducted a special intensive maintenance week from May 4.

However, officials said damage due to gusty winds and heavy rain cannot be fully ruled out and teams have been constituted to respond swiftly.

"Sometimes, gusty winds and rains cause some unexpected damage. We are prepared to handle such situations and will act immediately," an official said.

All manholes to be desilted by end of May: BWSSB

BENGALURU, DHNS

Officials of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) have started cleaning and desilting overflowing manholes that remain a major concern during the monsoon.

Ramprasat Manohar V

Board Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V has directed officials to complete the works before the end of May.

Senior board officials said manholes usually overflow when rainwater enters the sewerage network during heavy showers.

"Our sewerage network is designed to carry only sewage, and when large amounts of rainwater enter the network, the pressure opens up the manholes. Sometimes, the sewage also flows back," an official explained.

To prevent such incidents, the BWSSB has cracked down on households that illegally connected rainwater pipelines to the sewerage network instead of storm water drains in the last one year.

"Hundreds of such connections have been removed and this is expected to prevent instances of overflowing of manholes or sewage flowing back," another official said.

Vehicles move through a waterlogged Cantonment railway underpass following heavy rain on Monday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

The dilapidated footpath on the busy 80 Feet Road in Kalyan Nagar.

Footpath collapse sparks safety concerns

BENGALURU, DHNS: A large stretch of the footpath on the busy 80 Feet Road in Kalyan Nagar (Ward 27) has collapsed, turning into a dangerous pit filled with rocks and debris.

Residents said they have complained to civic officials for three years, but no repairs have been carried out. The damaged footpath is now blocking access to some homes. The collapse is so severe that concrete slabs have fallen into the drainage system below, leaving behind exposed pits and heaps of broken stone.

The damaged stretch is located on a high traffic road, forcing pedestrians, including schoolchildren and senior citizens, to walk on the carriageway to bypass the debris.

Retired engineer TR Vasudevan, 80, who lives on 7th Main, said his house has effectively been cut off leaving him stranded inside his house. "I cannot even take my vehicle out," he told *DH*.

He said the deep pit poses a serious danger to pedestrians and added that two elderly people recently fell and suffered injuries.

With the monsoon approaching, residents fear the waterlogged pit could lead to more accidents.

Trainee's suicide sparks protest at Manipal academy

BENGALURU, DHNS

Thousands of trainee students staged a protest at the Manipal Academy of BFSI campus on Thanisandra Main Road on Tuesday following the suicide of a 24-year-old trainee who was undergoing coaching for the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) examination.

The deceased was identified as Chinnu Kumar, a native of Bihar, who was found hanging in his hostel room on Monday afternoon.

The protesting students held a candlelight march inside the campus, demanding justice for Kumar.

Raising slogans and carrying placards, they alleged that harassment and humiliation by the management drove him to take the extreme step.

According to the police, Kumar was working as a contract employee with a private bank and had come to the institute for training to clear the NISM examination.

A senior police officer said Kumar had allegedly failed the examination twice during the training period. However, fellow trainees claimed that he had appeared for the examination seven times and had narrowly missed passing by one mark on each occasion.

Students organised a candlelight protest at the Manipal Academy of BFSI campus on Thanisandra Main Road on Tuesday, demanding justice following the death of a trainee. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A trainee alleged that the management mentally harassed and humiliated Kumar over his repeated failures.

Students further claimed that the management had requested the private bank employing Kumar to stop his stipend after he failed to clear the examination.

Based on a complaint filed by Kumar's parents, Kothanur police registered a case of abetment to suicide against faculty members of the institute and launched an investigation into the incident.

No suicide note was recovered, the police officer added.

Police said they are verifying the allegations made by the students and examining the circumstances leading to Kumar's death.

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

World Honey Day: Bangalore Agricultural University, North Block Auditorium, GKVK; from 10.30 am onwards.

College Anniversary, Graduation Ceremony: Vishweshwarapur Arts and Commerce Evening Degree College, Science College Auditorium, VV Puram; 5 pm.

'Yashodhara Dasappa' Award Presentation: Kannada Janshakti Kendra; Kuvempu Hall, Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Chamarajpet; from 5.15 pm onwards.

CULTURAL

Drishya Drama Festival–2026: Drishya Rangathanda; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 10 am.

Music Concert: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), University of Adelaide; JN Tata Auditorium, IISc, Sanjay Nagar; 6.30 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST

Rain or thundershowers with strong gusty winds

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.4°C
Minimum	21.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity as of 5:30 pm)	72%
Sunset (May 20)	6:39 pm
Sunrise (May 21)	5:54 am
Moonrise	8:08 am
Moonset	9:37 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

SC ruling on euthanising stray dogs worries activists

Fear misuse of the order; say civic failures remain unaddressed

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a far-reaching judgment aimed at curbing rising stray dog attacks across the country, the Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed authorities to euthanise rabid, incurably ill, or dangerous and aggressive dogs to protect human life and safety.

The ruling triggered sharp reactions among animal welfare activists and civic voices in the city, many of whom raised concerns about possible misuse of the directive and the lack of safeguards on the ground.

City-based animal activist Sukanya Sinha said the provision allowing euthanasia of aggressive or dangerous dogs could become a tool for mass culling.

"I am deeply distressed and fear that this order will be extensively misused on the ground," Sukanya said. "It feels overwhelming because this is not going to solve the problem. In fact, there is a beautiful sense of coexistence in many institutional areas, like the college campus I am currently in."

Echoing similar concerns, Chaithra, a volunteer with a city-based animal rescue group, questioned whether civic personnel were equipped to assess animal behaviour.

"Municipal catchers are not behavioural experts. Any dog that barks out of fear or defends its litter will now be labelled as dangerous and put down just to clear the streets. This completely undermines the spirit of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act," she said.

Sahana Charan, another animal activist who volunteers with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to feed stray dogs, said the chances of misuse were high.

"I just hope the authorities use caution in using their judgment. When the authorities haven't been able to find a proper shelter for the animals, what is the guarantee that they will be able to protect them?" she said.

Street dogs spotted at Geddalahalli. DH FILE PHOTO

BNP's suggestions

- Proper implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme
- Setting up ward-level animal shelters
- Involving local pet lovers and area sabhas in managing shelters
- Allocating a dedicated budget for animal welfare initiatives

CHAITHRA
Volunteer with a city-based animal rescue group

"Are civic personnel equipped to assess animal behaviour? Municipal catchers are not behavioural experts. Any dog that barks out of fear or defends its litter will now be labelled as dangerous and put down just to clear the streets. This completely undermines the spirit of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

'Decades of neglect'

Srikanth Narasimhan, founder of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), criticised the Apex Court's approach, calling it a reactive measure that overlooks decades of municipal neglect.

"I do not agree with the Supreme Court order at all," Narasimhan said. "Problems like these are because of the gross inaction and systemic failure, which has been thrust upon us by the municipal bodies over decades, and it cannot be undone overnight. Hence, the ruling is fundamentally flawed."

He also raised concerns about the logistics of relocating sterilised stray dogs.

"If animals have to be relocated after sterilisation, there are probably lakhs of dogs that will have to be taken into consideration. How and where are they going to be relocated? The real solution lies in the proper implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, setting up ward-level animal shelters manned by local pet lovers and area sabhas, and allocating a dedicated budget for them," Narasimhan added.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
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BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tenders** are invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works

SL. No.	NIT No.	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ ETN-26/2026-27 Dated: 19.05.2026	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ ETN-27/2026-27Dated: 19.05.2026	ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ ETN-28/2026-27 Dated: 19.05.2026
1	Name of Work	Annual Service Contract for providing Tehnical and reprographic support in various section at various campuses of ISTRAC, Bengaluru	Annual Service Contract for providing Technical service for various ISTRAC campuses at Bengaluru	Annual Service Contract for providing Technical services for various ISTRAC campuses at Bengaluru, Lucknow, Sri Vijayapuram and SDSC, SHAR
2	Estimated cost put to tender	Rs. 63.23 Lakhs	Rs. 237.60 Lakhs	Rs. 235.89 Lakhs
3	Tender Document details	E-Tender	E-Tender	E-Tender
4	Period of Completion.	12 (Twelve) months (Department reserves the rights to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)	12 (Twelve) months (Department reserves the rights to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)	12 (Twelve) months (Department reserves the rights to extend the contract for a further period of 24 months)
5	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 14.30 hrs. on 20.05.2026 to 16:30 hrs. on 10.06.2026		
6	Bid clarification	From 15.30 hrs. on 20.05.2026 to 16:30 hrs. on 11.06.2026		
7	Last date of reply to Bid clarification	Upto 16:30 hrs. on 12.06.2026		
8	Last date & time for receipt of tenders	Upto 14:30 hrs. on 15.06.2026		
9	Due date and time of opening of tenders	11:30 hrs. onwards 16.06.2026		
10	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 1,26,460/-	Rs. 4,75,200/-	Rs. 4,71,780/-

2. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and the tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

NRI arrested after hotel staff find bullets left behind in room

BENGALURU, DHNS

JC Nagar police have arrested a 34-year-old NRI for allegedly illegally possessing seven live bullets that were brought into the country.

The accused, identified as Arman Muthahar, is a resident of RT Nagar.

Police said the case came to light on May 6 after Prakash, manager of Jayamahal Palace Hotel, filed a complaint stating that hotel staff had found a magazine containing seven live rounds in one of the rooms.

Muthahar had checked into the hotel on April 27 and vacated the room the following day.

According to police, he later contacted the hotel staff over the phone, claiming he had accidentally left behind the magazine containing the ammunition and requested them to keep it safely until he returned within an hour to collect it.

However, despite repeated requests from the hotel management, he failed to return, raising suspicion.

Based on the complaint, JC Nagar police registered a case under the Arms Act and summoned the accused.

During the investigation, police found that the ammunition was being possessed illegally and seized the magazine along with the seven live rounds.

Muthahar was taken into custody, and police also seized his passport, mobile phone, laptop and other documents as part of the investigation.

During interrogation, Muthahar claimed he had accidentally carried the magazine in his luggage while travelling to India to visit his sister in RT Nagar. He also told investigators that he frequently travelled to India. He further claimed that he legally possessed a .38 pistol in the United States and had previously worked with a private security agency.

Police said they are writing to the accused's family and the authorities concerned to obtain documents related to firearm ownership in the US as part of the investigation.

Compensation
Farmers can either opt for 'developed' site or cash as compensation

Developed site
9,693 sq ft
for every one acre

Monetary
Rs 2.7 cr
to Rs 2.55 cr per acre

Compensation
25-40 k
is provided for trees such as mango, sapota, jackfruit

Project cost
Rs 18,133 cr
(Rs 12,511 crore loan from HUDCO and Rs 3,000 cr as equity from BDA)

Some villagers are dealing with cancer. Even those political leaders opposing the project own around 60-70 acres in benami properties and have quietly submitted letters to claim compensation.
H C BALAKRISHNA Magadi MLA

COMMERCE OR CONVENIENCE?: Realty prices set to see sharp rise; proponents think it will decongest B'luru

Township project plan leaves Bidadi's farming community vertically split

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

For Girish and his family in Chikka Byramangala, their 4.5-acre farmland is the means of their livelihood.

From yielding 300 kg of silk a month to growing crops such as coconut, arecanut and banana throughout the year, his family has lived in peace.

Using the income, Girish bought a residential site closer to the main road in Byramangala, built a house and married off his elder daughter, while the younger one is pursuing higher studies.

"There is abundant water for farmers in and around Bidadi, even if it does not rain for several months. We are not very rich, but we are financially sound," he said.

On Monday, he and his wife were among two dozen farmers participating in a demonstration in Byramangala against the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project.

The project, popularly known as Bidadi township, will come up on 7,481 acres. The state government is expected to issue the final notification for acquiring the land in a week's time.

Girish's land is among the 7,481 acres notified for acquisition. The final notification for acquisition may come next week. Ever since the township was notified in early 2025, many farmers have come together for a fight against it.

The agitation has entered its 434th day. While some farmers gather at the site after their farm work, a few even spend the night under the makeshift tent as a mark of protest.

B M Srinivas Reddy, who owns 8 acres of irrigated farmland, said farmers had initially resisted the attempt to survey the land for the township.

"When the joint measurement committee came, we stopped their vehicle. We were booked by police, but our protest was peaceful," he said.

Bidadi, he said, supplies 6 lakh litres of milk daily. "There are 2 lakh coconut trees. These villages are also known for mangoes, chikoo and silk," he said. Reddy was also part of the delegation that met Deputy CM D K Shivakumar. "Leave our fertile land as it is," he said.

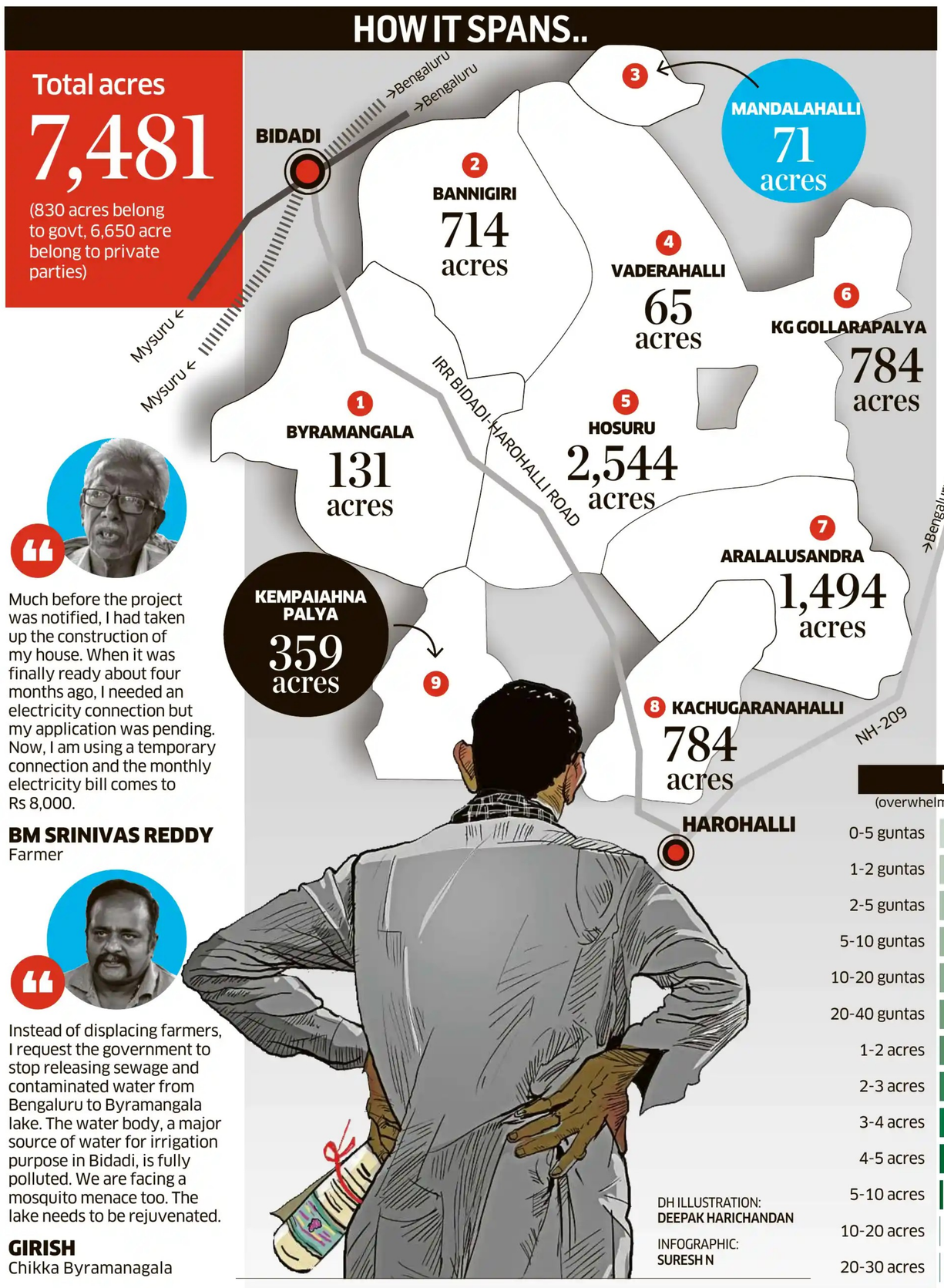
Officials in the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) maintained that many farmers were willing to part with their land because of the declining agricultural returns from their lands and pollution in the lake. "We are taking the land based on consent. Also, compensation is higher than what is offered in any other state," an official said. He said the authority would benefit if farmers opted for monetary compensation.

"Yet, we are encouraging them to take developed sites. Value of land will be huge once the township is ready," he said.

Farmer groups remain unconvinced. Some are in favour of holding a referendum in the villages. Manjunath, another farmer, said the government should not push through the project without consulting farmers.

"We want the opinion of every affected family to be officially recorded. If more farmers are in favour, we will withdraw the protest," Manjunath said.

HOW IT SPANS..



Much before the project was notified, I had taken up the construction of my house. When it was finally ready about four months ago, I needed an electricity connection but my application was pending. Now, I am using a temporary connection and the monthly electricity bill comes to Rs 8,000.

BM SRINIVAS REDDY
Farmer

Instead of displacing farmers, I request the government to stop releasing sewage and contaminated water from Bengaluru to Byramangala lake. The water body, a major source of water for irrigation purpose in Bidadi, is fully polluted. We are facing a mosquito menace too. The lake needs to be rejuvenated.

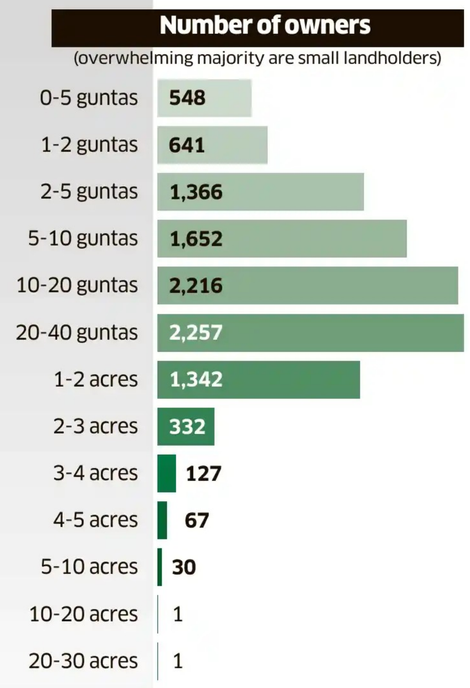
GIRISH
Chikka Byramanagala

The proposed township is quite huge. It will take 10 years to complete. What will the farmers do until then? Now, at least we are living life on our own terms and independently. If our farmland is gone, most of us will have no jobs other than work as maids in some other houses.

NETHRAVATHI
Kanchugaranahalli

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN
INFOGRAPHIC: SURESH N

Number of owners
(overwhelming majority are small landholders)



A board announces that it is the 433rd day of the protest by farmers against acquisition of their fertile land for the Bidadi township project. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

MLA: 70% farmers ready to give land

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mounting a strong defence of the Bidadi township project, Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna has said that the land notified for the project had initially been notified as a 'red zone' during former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy's tenure.

"Local farmers say they can neither market their produce nor sell their land owing to its toxicity. While 70% of the farmers are ready to part with their land, only 30% are protesting. This township will bring Cauvery water. An airport will be developed there," he told *DH*.

The conditions in the villages are not conducive to health of locals, as sewage inflow into Byramangala lake has left it heavily contaminated, he said.

"Some villagers are dealing with cancer. Even leaders opposing the project own 60-70 acres in benami and have quietly submitted letters for compensation," he said.

Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy said the project was first envisaged by Kumaraswamy, who planned a Smart City. He said D K Shivakumar was now spearheading it under a broader vision for up to 10 such satellite smart cities to ease load on Bengaluru. "Its economic influence will stretch up to Mandya. The criticism is purely political," he said.

Taking a cue from Devanahalli

The Bidadi farmers are drawing inspiration from successful agrarian movements. Farmers from Devanahalli - who successfully fought a legal battle - have extended their full support.

Environmentalists and farmer leaders who support the protesters cautioned mimicking Bengaluru's unstructured growth.

Prices soar as buyers made the most of pre-notification time

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The proposed Bidadi township project has triggered an uptick in the real estate market with local brokers and residents saying that enquiries for land prices near Bidadi, Hosuru and Byramangala have increased sharply ever since discussions around the township gathered pace.

Sites that were once sold for Rs 2,000 per square feet are now quoting upwards of Rs 5,000, they say.

What's more, farmers in Byramangala - whose land is not notified for the township - said they have got offers from potential buyers to give up their land for a price of up to Rs 5 crore per acre.

"As many as 586 acres of land in Bidadi were sold just

a month before the government published preliminary notification for the proposed Bidadi township," a source privy to information related to property transactions said.

"This was done in anticipation of rapid appreciation in land value as no transactions can take place after notification comes into force," he said.

Other than the township, there is speculation that Bengaluru's second international airport will come up in south Bengaluru.

What's more, the region - comprising of agricultural land - borders two industrial areas (Harohalli and Bidadi).

Litigations on upswing

As land prices are starting to rise, the number of litigations is also going up. The local court, it's learnt, has admitted about 800 cases relating to partition suit, just after the government began land acquisition process. Grade 'A' developers are adopting a wait and watch approach as they are yet to start amassing land in this region.

Not all are opposed to giving up land

BENGALURU, DHNS: While resistance to the Bidadi township project continues to grow, not all farmers are opposing the plan. In several villages, some elderly landowners say they are willing to part with their land, arguing that farming has become increasingly difficult due to labour shortages and changing family priorities.

Krishnamurthy, who owns 20 acres of farmland in Hosuru village, said he has been an agriculturist for four decades.

"Now, I don't want to continue. My children too are not interested," he said.

The farmer found nothing wrong in his land being acquired, saying he would opt for developed sites in return.

"Kengeri, Banashankari 6th stage used to be farmlands. Now, they have become layouts. Similarly, Bidadi will grow. I believe the sites here will be as costly as Rs 20,000 per square ft in the next five years, if the township is built".

Rajanna, a farmer in Byaramangala, said his 30-acre land is notified for the project. His farm comprises of hundreds of mango and coconut trees as well as banana plantation.

"Now, prices for the crops have come down," he said. Rajanna is also a local Congress leader and the party is speerheading the project.

A few farmers, however, were not convinced, stating that the compensation amount - which comes to Rs 2.5 crore per acre - will not be sufficient to buy agricultural land even within a 50-km radius of Bidadi.

REVIVAL ON CARDS

A stinking lake & toxicity in crops grown with its water

BENGALURU, DHNS

The township project has also drawn attention to the poor condition of Byramangala lake, a part of Vrishabhavathi valley, stretching close to 1,000 acres.

Once a major source of water for irrigation, the lake is now on the deathbed as it is choked with the constant inflow of sewage and industrial effluents, turning the water body with foam and weeds.

What's more, the lake is also encroached on all sides. Villagers also complain of mosquito menace. In some stretches, the water also emits foul odour.

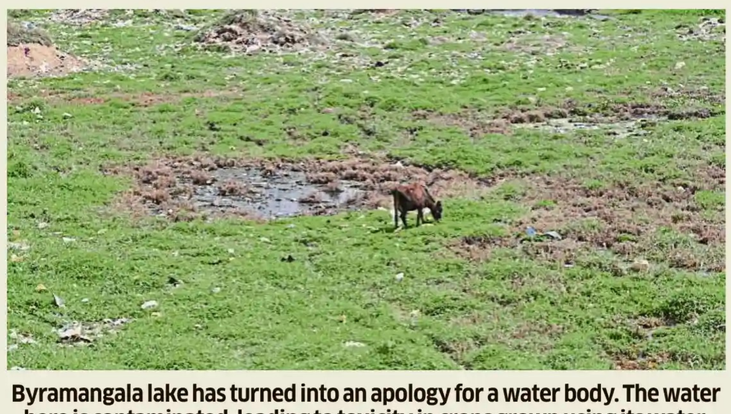
A few farmers are being persuaded to give up their land for the proposed township, stating that whatever is being cultivated, be it fruits or vegetables, are toxic and not fit for human consumption. This is because the lake water using which they are grown is contaminated.

Others, however, dismissed the fears as rumours, saying that it's a ploy to make farmers surrender their land.

"Now, cancer and other diseases are everywhere. Many generations including my family is eating fruits and vegetables grown using the water of Byramangala lake. We have not faced any health issues," some farmers said.

Along with developing the township, the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA) has proposed to rejuvenate the entire water body.

Officials said special grants will be set aside to ensure the lake will remain the centre of attraction while building the township.



Byramangala lake has turned into an apology for a water body. The water here is contaminated, leading to toxicity in crops grown using its water.

Avenues

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NEW KMV RULES

Cyclists voice rollout doubts

A network of lanes and integration with Namma Metro are key in making the plan a success, they say

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The new Karnataka Motor Vehicle rules mandating dedicated bicycle lanes have had a lukewarm reaction from cyclists and mobility activists. In light of the current energy crisis, the ruling, which emphasises non-motorised transport (NMT), comes at a crucial time, they state. However, they express reservations about its effective implementation, given the unsuccessful outcome of similar past initiatives.

In 2021, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) drafted the Active Mobility Bill (AMB), which mandated prioritisation of safe footpaths and cycling tracks by urban local bodies. It has not been implemented yet. "These new rules are a step in the right direction, but they do not cover the rights of NMT users, which are included in the AMB," says Sathyanarayanan Sankaran, sustainable mobility advocate and Bengaluru's 'bicycle mayor'.

A GBA garbage collection van uses the dedicated bicycle lane on Raj Bhavan Road, near Indira Gandhi Musical Fountain Park. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The Tendersure roads in the central business district, a 2 km stretch in Yelahanka and a 1 km stretch in HAL Airport Road, are some of the tracks in the city. A 17 km track, called the 'pop-up cycling track' on the Outer Ring Road, which was removed for metro construction, is currently being relaid.

Metro integration key

The Comprehensive Mobility Plan released by DULT in 2020 proposed a 600 km network of lanes by 2032. "This is what we need: a continuous network of tracks, and not patches of 2 km and 3 km tracks that are not connected," Sankaran notes, adding that safe parking facilities at metro stations are important to make the plan effective. "It also solves the problem of last-mile connectivity for bicycle users and will encourage more commuters to switch to bicycles," he explains.

Urban planner Sobia Rafiq believes integrating the plan with the Namma Metro network can be a game-changer. "If they start by developing these lanes within a 3-5 km radius of all metro stations, it could prove to be an effective step towards sustainable mobility," she points out. A combination of dedicated lanes, shared lanes, and traffic calming measures will be the most effective formula to ensure a continuous network instead of focusing purely on dedicated lanes.

However, negotiating implementation on the ground can prove to be challenging. A previous project that her company, Sensing Local, worked on was met with objections from local authorities. It was a collaboration with DULT and Doddanekundi Rising. "It was a pilot for developing cycle tracks in a 12 sq m neighbourhood. Negotiating space for cycle lanes even in sub-arterial roads was challenging," she recalls.

Sensitisation important

When Malleswaram-based IT professional Krishna Panyam has errands to run in his neighbourhood, he opts for his bicycle. "I cycle almost every day, when I have to shop or visit family in the neighbourhood. Sometimes, I also cycle to M G Road for meetings. But it has become increasingly unsafe, especially with noiseless EVs. You can't hear them approaching," he says. The authorities should first work on sensitising other road users, especially BMTC drivers, to cyclists' and pedestrians' safety before developing bicycle lanes.

A system-led approach to developing a bicycle network is imperative, according to Murali Ramanath, CEO, Namma Cycle Foundation. "The policy is good. But first, we need an active mobility commissioner who will oversee its implementation, and second, a tribunal to address grievances and penalties. Only when these two are in place should the government focus on infrastructure," he states.

Sankaran recalls the energy crisis of 1974. That was when countries like the Netherlands and Sweden pivoted to non-motorised transport and developed their cities accordingly. "Is this our 1974 moment?" he asks.

POPCORN

Law law land

So the US is dropping a corruption case against Adanis in exchange for a big investment and 14,000 jobs. The media in the West is outraged, but then, shouldn't you hand it to the genius who hit upon the idea of monetising a corruption case in the national interest?

EVENTS

Dance
R P Shravan and troupe will stage a classical dance ballet, 'Sivapadam-Natya Vaibhavam', on May 23, 5 pm, at New Horizon College of Engineering auditorium, Marathahalli. Entry free.

Film screening
The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) will host an evening of film screenings celebrating the legacy of Sir David Attenborough on May 23, 3 pm, on their premises in Vasanth Nagar. To register, visit @ngma_bengaluru on Instagram.

Folk music
Ekta's Gatherings will host 'Maati Ki Mehek — The Fragrance of Soil', an evening of folk music featuring original compositions by Tejashree Ingawale, on May 23, 7 pm at Medai, Richmond Town. For tickets, visit @ektas_gatherings on Instagram.

Crime lit fest this weekend

VIBHA S BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

Murder, mystery, and suspense will take centre stage this weekend as Dead Write, a two-day crime literature festival hosted by the Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF), will be held at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur, on May 23-24 from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm.

"The idea sprang from a wish to give readers a genre-focused platform before the flagship BLF edition in December," says Srikrishna Ramamoorthy, co-founder of BLF. Crime has always drawn readers, and with Bengaluru's many crime reading clubs, Dead Write seeks to fill a local gap — a festival created for enthusiastic crime readers. The event spans detective fiction, historical crime, true crime and niche subjects such as art fraud and heritage smuggling. Programme highlights include moderated author conversations, audience Q&As, book signings and interactive sessions, including one titled 'Writing a Bestseller', which explores the art of suspense writing.

The line-up brings together fiction writers, journalists and former police officers. Agni Shridhar, known for writing about the underworld, will appear alongside police voices such as Amit Lodha. The festival also features one international guest, Leodora Darlington, with Indian names such as Anita Nair and Hussain Zaidi on the bill. It will close with a ticketed murder mystery dinner.

Entry to all other events is free. Register on bangaloreliteraturefestival.org

When short-form content got a big screen

AMANDA V JAMES
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengaluru hosted an unusual screening over the weekend. Around 180 people gathered at the auditorium of Bangalore International Centre (BIC) in Domlur to watch short-form videos lasting a minute or two on a 'big screen'. The audience also voted live for the best short-format videos alongside a jury comprising ad film director Gajraj Rao, and content creators Zervaan Bunshah and Vir Bhaan Saini.

The occasion was the first edition of the Indian Scroll Festival (ISF) 2026. It aims to celebrate short-form content as an art form rather than a tool for engagement metrics. It received over 160 entries from creators across India, and 40 shortlisted videos were screened. Five winners, three from Bengaluru and one each from Rajasthan and Kerala, received prize money of Rs 1 lakh each.

The event was organised by creative agency Talented and its venture mktgstack. The organisers said they chose Bengaluru for the inaugural edition to spotlight content emerging from south India, and bring the city on par with Mumbai and Delhi in the content creation space.

Entries were invited in five categories — Comedy, AI, Edits (think fan edits), Emotional, and Food. The submissions came from creators and filmmakers aged between 17 and nearly 40.

Forty videos, shortlisted from a pool of over 160, were screened.

Varun Manavazhi, a 29-year-old wildlife and documentary filmmaker from Bengaluru, was among the winners. He had submitted a one-minute film about visiting his 92-year-old grandmother for Vishu in Palakkad, Kerala. "I wanted to challenge myself to make a one-minute film about myself, all by myself," he said. He added that shooting the film independently came with challenges, including composing shots and using timers to film himself.

Rajay Rajendra Naik was another winner from Bengaluru. He had submitted two videos. One focused on Mumbai's Dhobi Ghat, while the other told the story of his grandfather's tailor shop in Goa. The 26-year-old creative director and filmmaker said the festival gave storytellers like him visibility at a time when social media algorithms are making discovery difficult.

Namrata Chawla, one of the creators of ISF, said she was glad the festival reached creators who are looking for alternative platforms for their work.

NGOs, citizens rally for pocket-sized lakes

The CRPF site in Yelahanka was choked with sludge and garbage. (Right) The lake will be filled with treated and runoff water.

These new water bodies are supporting biodiversity and helping recharge groundwater

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Not all is lost when it comes to Bengaluru's lakes. Over the past two years, NGOs, citizen groups, ecologists and engineers have worked to restore, expand, and even build lakes from scratch. They say they have received institutional and government support, along with CSR funding, to carry out these projects.

Scaled up

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) campus in Yelahanka today boasts a three-acre lake. Until December last year, however, the site lay choked with sludge, sewage and weeds.

"There was already a 7,000 sq ft pond there, but we realised it had the potential to become a much larger water body," said Harsha Tej, founder and director of BlueDot Foundation. His team was invited by CRPF officials to study the land, after which they proposed creating a three-acre lake to support groundwater recharge and biodiversity within the 250-acre campus.

More than 500 volunteers, including students and senior citizens, took part in the expansion effort. The lake now receives treated water and rainwater through an inlet system, and plans are underway to channel additional monsoon run-off into it. Excess water flows through outlet channels designed to recharge groundwater. The lake attracts more than 30 bird species, such as red-wattled lapwing and Asian green bee-eater.

LAKE OR JUST A BIG POND?

Ecologist Harini Nagendra says Bengaluru's newly created and revived water bodies can be described as "pocket-sized lakes", especially when they have proper inlet and outlet systems. While there is no strict distinction between a lake and a pond, she adds that many of Bengaluru's water bodies began as irrigation tanks before evolving into what are now considered urban lakes.

Lost and revived

Residents of Kasturinagar were in for a shock in 2024 when they learnt that a site they had long used as a dumping yard was once a lake. Many had assumed it was vacant government land.

"People were dumping chicken waste, plastic, and construction debris," said Gurunandan Rao M of Hands on Foundation, the NGO that has since led the restoration of the B Channasandra Lake. It took months of land record checks to establish that the seven-acre site had once been a lake that had dried up and faded from public memory.

Volunteers and engineers cleared blocked stormwater channels, desilted the lakebed, created walking tracks, and planted native and endangered tree species around.

Today, nearly 300 residents visit the lake every day, with members of the Kasturinagar Welfare Association contributing Rs 500 a month towards its maintenance. Low-intensity solar streetlights have been installed to minimise disturbance to wildlife around the lake.

Built from scratch

Eagle's Nest Lake was little more than a marshy patch of land inside the Army's 515 Base Workshop campus in Cambridge Layout, strewn with debris. Army officials had noticed that water constantly accumulated in the area and approached Rao's NGO.

"The entire catchment from M G Road and Trinity Circle flowed into this area before draining into Bellandur and Varthur lakes. So we thought we should create proper water-holding capacity here," Rao said.

During excavation, what was initially believed to be a damaged pipeline turned out to be a shallow aquifer. Geologists later confirmed the finding, paving the way for the creation of the lake. It has maintained stable water levels since its inauguration in 2024, even during peak summer.

New platform connects city's communities

Launched this month, the website features over 215 interest groups

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

In a city known for its thriving culture of meetups and interest-based groups, a new platform is aiming to bring its many communities under one roof.

Launched by UnboxingBLR earlier this month, HangOut.in is a community platform that lists neighbourhood-based groups and events across the city. The portal currently features over 215 communities, around 49 volunteer organisations, and 75-100 events at any given time.

It spans over 20 categories, featuring running groups, book clubs, cycling collectives, art circles, chess clubs, fitness communities, and volunteering initiatives. Users can search for communities by interest as well as by specific Bengaluru areas.

Malini Goyal, cofounder and CEO of UnboxingBLR, said the idea emerged from Bengaluru's strong culture of interest-driven communities. "People come together simply because they love painting, running, reading, quizzing, or volunteering, and we wanted to help keep that culture alive," she said.

According to Malini, the platform is also designed to help newcomers to the city discover like-minded groups and build a sense of belonging.

"Many people move here from other cities and often struggle with loneliness or isolation. Communities help people find connections and friendships," she added.

Unlike commercial ticketing platforms, HangOut.in does not charge commissions from organisers. Community groups, regardless of their membership size, can register on the platform.

Launched in the first week of May, it has got over 1,000 visitors.

For details, visit hangout.in

Analogue's the way: Bengalureans want to slow down

They are replacing the latest tech with feature phones, mechanical watches, MP3 players and film cameras

AMANDA V JAMES
TEAM METROLIFE

Several Bengalureans are turning to old technology to cut the clutter and slow down. They are replacing the latest gadgets with feature phones, film cameras, MP3 players, and wind-up watches.

Saikavin S, a computer science student, felt his critical thinking was being hampered. He was unable to exercise self-control when it came to scrolling on social media. "I wanted to experience life to its fullest and be more mindful of my actions and decisions. I figured I could live without a smartphone for most of the time," he shared.

He had been thinking about making this switch since last October. He even experimented with "productivity launchers", apps that strip a smartphone down to function like a dumbphone. However, he would slowly slip back into old habits. He finally switched to a feature phone this March.

The frustration had been building for a long time. As a child, he read books and had conversations with friends and family about what he had read. Years later, such conversations had mostly stopped and were replaced by endless scrolling. He also read an article about how tech giants design their apps to "degrade our critical thinking skills".

Saikavin has since found alternative ways to meet basic needs. "I use public transport so I can avoid ride-hailing platforms. I look up directions beforehand on my laptop and write them in my pocket notebook." He also regularly withdraws cash from ATMs and does not use digital wallets. "This is challenging because the government is pushing cashless payments as the norm. One gets five free withdrawals and is charged Rs 23 per withdrawal thereafter," he explains.

Aakriti Thatal shoots with a Yashica Electro 35 film camera, and uses an HMT Janata mechanical watch.

Offline playlist

Purushotham S, a software engineer, has been seeking more control of his music in the age of streaming platforms. "I went back to my old MP3 players because music streaming services have become repetitive with their suggestions, and there is little control over algorithms. Essentially, the listener has no control over their playlist," he said.

He keeps up with new music through recommendations from friends, online reviews, and social media trends. "What has changed is the sense of exclusivity and the ability to listen without distractions or ads. Choosing and queuing tracks makes the experience feel more deliberate," he added.

Purushotham also uses an analogue camera and occasionally listens to music on a turntable.

Tactile experience

Amoghavarsha, a lawyer, has been wearing analogue watches for the past four to five years and is particularly drawn to mechanical timepieces. "There's something symbolic and intentional about waking up every day and winding your watch," the 32-year-old says, adding, "It's a reminder that things work as long as we intend to make them work — careers, relationships, the direction of life itself. Everything requires some winding up."

Ankitha Nihaari, an artist, prefers analogue watches because she does not want to be dependent on another screen. She uses a smartwatch only during workouts and switches to her old Casios and HMTs afterwards.

Aakriti Thatal, an independent researcher and photographer, gravitated towards analogue technology for tactility and a sense of control. She shoots with a Yashica Electro 35 film camera and uses an HMT Janata mechanical watch, which she particularly enjoys for its unique Hindi numerals on the dial. "I was interested in the whole process of taking images, going to a studio, getting them developed, and seeing them in print." As digital cameras are not limited by frame count, Aakriti realised she tends to take many photographs that eventually need sorting. "Using an analogue camera gives me some sort of discipline to be more selective with my shots," she explained.

Loan harassment: Cab driver dies by suicide after recording video

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 50-year-old cab driver died by suicide allegedly due to harassment over repayment of a high interest loan in Basaveshwara Nagar. The deceased, Basavaraj, a native of Mysuru, lived with his family in a rented house at Kamalanagar.

Police said the incident took place on Sunday evening.

Basavaraj hanged himself inside a room at his house. His mother, Saakamma, informed his son, Pawan, over the phone.

A senior police officer said that Basavaraj was under severe stress as he was unable to repay the mounting interest on a loan of Rs 50,000 borrowed from Mahendra, a financier. Before taking the extreme step, Basavaraj reportedly recorded a video message and left behind a death note accusing Mahendra of being responsible for his death and seeking stringent punishment against him.

Based on a complaint filed by the family, police registered a case of abetment to suicide against Mahendra, who is absconding.

Drunk truck driver held for assaulting traffic cop

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 29-year-old truck driver was arrested for allegedly assaulting a traffic head constable after being stopped following an accident in Bommasandra near Hosur Road.

The accused was identified as Vinay Kumar Singh, a native of Madhya Pradesh.

Police said an accident involving a truck and a car was reported on the Bommasandra-Chandapura main road on Sunday evening. The car suffered partial damage in the collision.

Passersby alerted the police helpline about a traffic jam due to the accident.

Muniraju V, a head constable attached to Electronics City traffic police station, went to the spot and asked both drivers to bring their vehicles to the police station.

However, the truck driver abused Muniraju and repeatedly kicked him on the chest and right shoulder.

Muniraju alerted Hoysala patrolling personnel and Singh was taken into custody.

Police said a breathalyser test confirmed Singh was under the influence of alcohol. A separate drunk driving case has also been registered against him.

Electronics City police booked the accused for assaulting and obstructing a public servant from discharging duty. Further investigation is underway.

Students abducted, assaulted in forest; gang seeks Rs 3L ransom

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three college students were allegedly abducted by a gang and brutally assaulted after being taken to a forest area off Attibele-Sarjapur Road.

The accused robbed Rs 27,000 in cash and iPhones from two of the victims, while demanding Rs 3 lakh ransom for the release of one student, police said.

A senior police officer said the complainant, 20-year-old Vishnu B, stated that he and his friends, 22-year-old Mohammed Farshin and 21-year-old Praveen P, were standing outside their PG accommodation at Kachamaranahalli in Mullur around 1.30 am on Monday when six men arrived on three bikes.

One of the accused, identified as Vamshi, allegedly threatened the trio and forcibly made them sit on the vehicles before taking them to the forest area.

Police said the gang assaulted the students, threatened them with dire consequences and robbed the cash along with the mobile phones of Vishnu and Farshin.

Praveen was later released, while Farshin was kept in illegal confinement as the gang demanded Rs 3 lakh for his safe release, police said.

The victims are pursuing BCA and MCA courses at a private college. Vishnu and Farshin are undergoing treatment at a private hospital after sustaining severe injuries in the assault.

Based on the complaint, Varthur police registered a case of kidnapping and robbery. No clues have been established about the gang so far, a senior police officer added.

Bescom AEE, contractor trapped by Lokayukta

BENGALURU, DHNS: An Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of Bescom and a private electrical contractor were trapped by the Karnataka Lokayukta police while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 to sanction additional power supply for a temporary electricity connection.

The accused have been identified as Manojkumar B, 53, Assistant Executive Engineer (Electrical) at the Bescom S-12 Subdivision office in JP Nagar 7th Phase, and Kantharaju, a private electrical contractor.

The complainant, N Raghuraj, 30, a resident of Sanjeevini Nagar in Hegganahalli near Peenya, said that the official had demanded a bribe to sanction an additional 25 kilowatts of power for a temporary meter connection.

Based on the complaint, the Lokayukta police registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act and laid a trap on Tuesday.

Manojkumar instructed the complainant to hand over the bribe amount to Kantharaju. The contractor was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting Rs 50,000 from the complainant. Both accused have been taken into custody.

Direct SWISS flights between B'luru & Zurich

BENGALURU, DHNS: Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) has announced a new non-stop service between Bengaluru and Zurich, scheduled to begin in October. The service will operate five times a week.

In a statement, the airline said the route is aimed at strengthening connectivity between southern India and Europe via its Zurich hub.

With this addition, Bengaluru becomes SWISS' latest destination in India and the third Lufthansa Group gateway from the city, after Frankfurt and Munich.

The airline expects the route to serve business, leisure, and diaspora travellers.

Tickets for the new service went on sale on May 19.

New Bengaluru-Mumbai train to halt at Tumakuru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The newly announced SMVT Bengaluru-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-Weekly Express will also halt at Tumakuru, the South Western Railway (SWR) said.

Train number 16553 SMVT Bengaluru-LTT Bi-Weekly Express will start on May 23, and train number 16554 LTT-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-Weekly Express on May 24.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA
4TH CORRIGENDUM DETAILS of NIT
TENDER REFERENCE No.- RCD/DUMKA/514
PR 379021 Road(26-27)#D

NAME OF THE WORK - Construction of High Level Bridge over Dhowae River at ch 41st km and Construction of High Level Bridge over Mudko River at ch 30th km of Dumka-Hansdiha Road under Road Division Dumka for the year 2026-27.

CORRIGENDUM DETAIL of NIT

4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website – 05.06.2026 10:30 AM **in place of** 20.05.2026 10:30 AM
5	Last date/Time for receipt of bids02.07.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon **in place of** 15.06.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon
6	Date of opening of Tender – 03.07.2026 at 12.30 PM **in place of** 16.06.2026 at 12.30 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

PR 380176 Road(26-27)D

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department, Road Division, Dumka

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. LRC-3_CT_ RSP_250_NMGHS-R, dated 14.05.2026. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (LHB), Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from tenderers having financial and technically capabilities for the following work: **Name of Work**: "Conversion of NMG coaches to NMGHS coaches" . **Approx. Cost of works:** ₹ 40,10,66,711.50; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 80,21,300.00; **Tender Document Cost:** 0.00; **Tender Closing date and time** : 04.06.2026 at 14.00 hrs. **Website where complete details of Tender is available** : **www.ireps.gov.in** Tenderers are advised to check IREPS portal frequently to find if any corrigendum is published after publication of Tender Notice. MISC-42/2026-27

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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@easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ELD-125-WC-OT-04-26, Dated 14.05.2026. E-tender Notice is invited by the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah-711101 against Tender No. **ELD-125-WC-OT-04-26** for the following works: **Name of the work with its location:** 25 KV OHE work in connection with construction of new LHS in lieu of 12 Nos. LC Gates (11A/1, 8/1, 7/5, 5/4, 12A, 6/3, 5/3, 18/02, 7/1, 5/2, 12/A/3 & 7/C) under the jurisdiction of SSE/TRD/Nabadwip Dham in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. **Approx. cost of the work**: ₹ 2,24,35,191.25. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited :** ₹ 4,48,700.00. **Completion period of the work:** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of LOA. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 16.06.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Opening of tender:** Tender will be opened at any time after closing of tender. Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bid online. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. HWH-79/2026-27

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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E-Auction Notice for Leasing of SLR/LVPH

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 03 (Three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website. The details of the e-auction are as follows : **Category :** Parcel; **Catalogue No. : LEASE-KGP-26-05; Date of e-Auction :** 01.06.2026; **Auction Start Time :** 10:30 hrs.; **Auction Closing time :** 17:00 hrs.; Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the E-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-193) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/KGP**

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

ATTENTION ADVERTISING AGENCIES : INDICATIVE AD

Empanelment of Advertising Agencies by Eastern Railway

Applications are invited from INS accredited advertising agencies for empanelment in Eastern Railway for Public Relations related work. Application forms can be downloaded from our website **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in (Supplier Information → Other information) upto 15.06.2026 till 11.00 a.m.** The application form can also be obtained from office of Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway, 3, Koilaghat Street, Kolkata-700001 on any working day **from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. upto 14.06.2026** and **from 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. on 15.06.2026** on submission of cost of application form. The cost of application form (non-refundable) of **₹ 5,900/-** (₹ 5,000/- + 18% GST of 900/-) to be submitted in the form of Demand Draft from scheduled bank, drawn in favour of "FA&CAO, Eastern Railway" payable at Kolkata or money receipt issued by Chief Cashier, Eastern Railway. Applications complete in all respect with cost of application form paid in the prescribed method must reach the above address by **12.00 noon on 15.06.2026** after which applications will not be accepted. The detailed notice is available in the Eastern Railway's website **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in** For any query/clarification, please contact the office of the **Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway, 3, Koilaghat Street, Kolkata-700001**.

Chief Public Relations Officer

EASTERN RAILWAY

भारत सरकार
कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय
त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समापन प्रसंस्करण केंद्र (सी-पेस),
आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वी मंज़िल,
प्लाट P-6,7,8, से.-5, आई.एम्.टी. मानेसर, गुड़गाँव,
हरियाणा - 122050.
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE)
IICA Building, 7th Floor,
Plot P-6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar,
Gurgaon, Haryana- 122050
Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

FORM No. STK - 6
PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public:ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2026-27/263 **Date:- 12/05/2026**

Reference:

In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (**68**) companies in the **Karnataka** state under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AC3034731	U70109KA2022PTC165355	MANGALORE MALL PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AC3006710	U72900KA2020PTC135553	ELEVER FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AC3022970	U74999KA2017PTC104214	EXPETAL MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AC3017324	U72200KA2015PTC081204	CIALFO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
5	AC3016482	U65921KA1995PTC018406	ZYFAX SYSTEMS (BANGALORE) PRIVATE LIMITED
6	AC3008410	U85110KA1988PLC008838	K.K.COLOR ACCURATES LIMITED
7	AC3032838	U29102KA2025PTC209906	GRUNWALD MOBILITY PRIVATE LIMITED
8	AC3033839	U32301KA2020PTC138993	X-OVER PRIVATE LIMITED
9	AC3011028	U74999KA2016OPC098498	IYER WEDDINGS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
10	AC3059048	U74999KA2022PTC167421	BOOKGURU ONLINE LEARNING SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
11	AC3033614	U40102KA2008PTC046857	SAI SIMRITA POWER PRIVATE LIMITED
12	AC3022421	U72200KA2016PTC085824	PROGUE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
13	AC3090807	U85110KA2004PTC033201	PULSE HEALTHCARE PRIVATE LIMITED
14	AC3072037	U72900KA2022PTC163831	INFILIZ PRIVATE LIMITED
15	AC3075610	U74999KA2016PTC096312	UNIFIZE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
16	AC3091059	U72200KA2012PTC066206	CRESHYA TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
17	AC3096855	U55101KA2020PTC136222	ATITYAM RESORT PRIVATE LIMITED
18	AC3146946	U74999KA2017PTC100657	YOS HOME APPLIANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
19	AC3094763	U02919KA1992PTC013657	R.P SWITCHGEAR AND TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED
20	AC3166263	U14101KA1989PTC010494	SOLO ROCK GRANIT EXPORT PRIVATE LIMITED
21	AC3129847	U62099KA2025PTC203368	MOMO DIGITAL PRIVATE LIMITED
22	AC3123056	U72900KA2019PTC130834	MODELGENIE ANALYTICS BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
23	AC3263433	U72200KA2010FTC055634	DUNN SOLUTIONS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
24	AC3130611	U52590KA2013PTC072797	URBAN WEAVES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
25	AC3196489	U72502KA2018PTC113450	BAUPLECHAIN TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
26	AC3126541	U74999KA2022PTC165017	PLACEXHR PRIVATE LIMITED
27	AC3146308	U47912KA2023PTC182016	ORITOGUZO PRIVATE LIMITED
28	AC3131532	U67200KA2022PTC158008	C4D FUND MANAGEMENT (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
29	AC3159020	U63030KA2019PTC126960	TRUSTEL BESPOKE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES PRIVATE LIMITED
30	AC3247618	U62099KA2023PTC170713	FLEEKBOX ANALYTICS PRIVATE LIMITED
31	AC3176017	U62099KA2024PTC189997	AEROBOTIX INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
32	AC3188845	U68200KA2023PTC174303	SHEEBAG INFRA PRIVATE LIMITED
33	AC3223173	U72200KA2018PTC112136	YETA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
34	AC3208771	U17122KA2015PTC084688	SAMHATI FASHIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
35	AC3196328	U74999KA2018PTC113796	SWEDINDUS SOLUTIONS AB INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
36	AC3225032	U74999KA2020PTC133559	GAINTSCREEN TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
37	AC3233001	U72100KA2019PTC125065	GOYAME TECHNOLOGIES AND SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
38	AC3226020	U50200KA2022PTC162800	DEALERSWORX INNOVATION PRIVATE LIMITED
39	AC3250802	U82920KA2023PTC180396	MOREMAN ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED
40	AC3262214	U52609KA2022PTC163350	WELCOME RENEWABLE RESOURCE PRIVATE LIMITED
41	AC3289433	U37100KA2021PTC156047	DHARWAD RECYCLING PRIVATE LIMITED
42	AC3269451	U15490KA2021PTC143724	RRK SPIRITS PRIVATE LIMITED
43	AC3276521	U28990KA2019OPC122994	EFTM INDIA (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
44	AC3305289	U71100KA2023PTC179711	MASHINIHOME DESIGNS PRIVATE LIMITED
45	AC3283758	U11043KA2023PTC177444	IWC SPRING WATER PRIVATE LIMITED
46	AC3283389	U26921KA1997PTC022799	DELTA BUILDWARES PRIVATE LIMITED
47	AC3298022	U74110KA2008PTC047303	SUTRAH BUILDWARE PRIVATE LIMITED
48	AC3282249	U70109KA2022PTC163309	VPACE REALTEK PRIVATE LIMITED
49	AC3318370	U15400KA2022PTC166529	JSPI INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
50	AC3319095	U63030KA2022OPC156175	ADI NARAYAN HOSPITALITY (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
51	AC3316267	U46208KA2024PTC192671	HEINZEL IMPORT EXPORT PRIVATE LIMITED
52	AC3338446	U72900KA2022PTC168170	WEALTHJOY TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
53	AC3325415	U14101KA2023PTC174812	AAROHANA FASHIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
54	AC3342015	U15400KA2021PTC144398	COPFEC INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED
55	AC3343841	U62013KA2023PTC181128	SHILADI INFO SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
56	AC3344358	U52399KA2021PTC154070	IRK IMEX PRIVATE LIMITED
57	AC3376272	U69200KA2024OPC188515	ASCENDIUM ADVISORS (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
58	AC3195574	U63030KA2019PTC125216	BSM INVENTORY MANAGEMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
59	AC2856503	U72200KA2017PTC104103	VOIR SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED
60	AC2783694	U93290KA2025PTC200929	SRQ MAKE MY EVENT KART PRIVATE LIMITED
61	AC2909097	U73100KA2022FTC166126	RSL-PROTECH INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
62	AC2884318	U36999KA2022OPC167778	PETCREED VENTURES (OPC) PRIVATE LIMITED
63	AC2839961	U51909KA2020PTC135162	DUNIKA TRADE LINKS PRIVATE LIMITED
64	AC2835421	U55101KA2019PTC126357	FEEDVERSE HOSPITALITY PRIVATE LIMITED
65	AC2850438	U85410KA2023PTC174765	PLAYDEMY CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
66	AC2848961	U55101KA1984PTC005860	ASHWINI HOTEL PRIVATE LIMITED
67	AC2904593	U72200KA2014PTC073255	UOLO TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
68	AC2855230	U72200KA2000PTC027608	METASPARC SOFTWARE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

2. Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above-mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore, requested for removal/ strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

3. Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above-mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

4. Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkey
Deputy Registrar
Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit

CBC 07123/11/0125/2627

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.:- S/RWP/E/2026-27/05 dated: 16.05.2026, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the **President of India** invites **online "e-Open Tender"**, through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs., **SN** : 1, **Tender No. :** 01261038, **Short Description of item :** Pouring Tube Ceramic, **Quantity :** 2250 Nos., **Date of Tender Opening/Closing :** 08/06/2026 at 14:00 Hrs., **SN** : 2, **Tender No. :** 01261019, **Short Description of item :** Taper Ingate Sleeve (B-21), **Quantity :** 1549 Nos., **Date of Tender Opening/Closing** : 16/06/2026 at 14:00 Hrs., **SN** : 3, **Tender No.** : 01261035, **Short Description of item** : Graphite Granules, **Quantity :** 1377 MT, **Date of Tender Opening/Closing** : 16/06/2026 at 14:00 Hrs., 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is **www.ireps.gov.in.** **For PCMM/RWP/Bela**

RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2026-27/22

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Tender Notice No.: Dy.CEE/PS/MLG/HQ/01R/26-27, **Dated:** 15-05-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.:** DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-01R-26-27; **Name of Work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of VRF AC units for three years at Maligaon under SSE/AC/Maligaon. **Advertised Value :** ₹.1,58,84,650.44/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹.2,29,400/-; Date and time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. on **08-06-2026**. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridged Tender Notice No.: HWH-I- 02-2026-27 (Open Tender) For e-tendering, dated 14.05.2026. Sealed Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/I/Eastern Railway/Howrah, 371, Telkal Ghat Road, Howrah-711101 for the following work: **Name of work :** Removal of existing infringement and construction of AFTC Hut, L.C. Gate Lodge, PWI Office cum Store and other ancillary works in connection with Chandanpur - Saktigarh 4th Railway Line Project. **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,61,70,574.08. **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 25,23,400,00. **Completion period** : 06 (Six) months. **Date of closing** : 05.06.2026 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-Tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. CON-07/2026-27

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client intends to purchase the immoveable property which is morefully described in the Schedule below **("Schedule Property")** from Y.R.Muniraju son of Ramanna @Ramaiah **("Owner").** The Owner has represented that he is the owner of the Schedule Property, having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Public is notified that any person having any claim or interest, or any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim, benefit, demand or interest in or in relation to the Schedule Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, let, lease, license, assignment mortgage, inheritance, bequest, succession, gift, lien, charge, maintenance, bequest, easement, trust, possession, family arrangement, settlement, decree or order of any court of law, contracts/ agreements, development right, partnership or arrangements of whatsoever nature, may lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, to the undersigned within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the Owner, have any right over the Schedule Property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property bearing Site Nos. 1 to 4 formed in Sy.No.13 and 14, bearing Khata No.688/1995, measuring 8,000 Square Feet, situate at Maruthinagar, Kogilu Road, Yelhanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded by: **East:** Raj Kaluve; **West:** Property belongs to A Byrappa; **North:** Property belongs to C.Krishnappa and **South:** Kogilu Road.

Date: 12/05/2026 **Sd/- Umashree N.**
Advocate, No.3/1, 1st A Cross, Park Road, Indiranagar 1st Stage Bangalore-560 038. Mob: 9663078174

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client (**'Client'**) is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable properties morefully described in the **'Schedule'** hereunder and are hereinafter collectively referred to as the **'Schedule Properties'** with the owners listed in the table hereinbelow (**'Owners'**). The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions in the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties is/ are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the sale transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties, measuring in total 08 Acres 17 Guntas, situated at Yarthiganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk and Bangalore Rural District and described in the table below:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries	Name of the Owner/s
		Acres	Guntas		
1.	46/1	00	26 ½	East by : Property belonging to Bachangada Nachappa Kariyappa; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 50/2; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 51/3; & South by : Property bearing Survey No. 46/2	Mrs. Boyella Manasa, daughter of Boyella Purnachandra Reddy
		00	26 ½	East by : Property belonging to Bachangada Nachappa Kariyappa; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 50/2; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 51/3; & South by : Property bearing Survey No. 46/2	Mrs. Galli Archana @ Boyilla Archana, wife of Mr. Galli Praveen Reddy.
2.	46/2	01	13	East by : Property bearing Survey No. 45/3; West by : Property bearing Survey Nos. 48/2 & 50/2; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 46/1; & South by : Property bearing Survey No. 47/1B	Mrs. Edula Saraswathi, wife of Mr. Edula Swamiranga Reddy
3.	48/2	00	30	East by : Property bearing Survey No. 46/2; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 48/1; North by : Remaining portion of Survey No. 48/2; & South by : Property bearing Survey No. 47/1B	(I)Mrs. Savithramma, wife of Late Muthappa; (ii) Legal heirs of Late Thimmappa;& (iii) Mr. Shanthappa, son of Late Muthappa.
		02	01	East by : Property bearing Survey No. 46/2; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 48/1; North by : Property bearing Survey No. 50/2; & South by : Remaining portion of Survey No. 48/2	(I)Mr. M. Narasimha Raju, son of Late Narasa Raju; (ii)Mr. V. Prabhakar Reddy, son of Mr. Rami Reddy; (iii)Mr. Chandra Mohan G., son of Mr. Divyanathan; (iv)Mr. M. Srinivas Raju, son of Late M. Narayana; (v)Mr. B. Srinivasa Reddy, son of Mr. B. Venkata Reddy; (vi) Mr. B. Venkata Ramana Reddy, son of Mr. B. Ranga Reddy
4.	51/2	03	00	East by : Property bearing Survey No. 51/3; West by : Property bearing Survey No. 53; North by : Property bearing Survey Nos. 29 & 52;& South by : Remaining portion of Survey No. 51/2	IACETE & KWF Trust (R) Bangalore

Date : 20.05.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Ms. Brijita Prakash, Partner
J. Sagar Associates
Advocates & Solicitors
18th Floor, SKAV 909, No. 9/1, Residency Road, Richmond Circle
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Date: 20.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Second PUC exam 2, KCET results soon

BENGALURU, DHNS: The results of the second PUC examination 2 are expected to be announced in the next three days.

Following the completion of the evaluation work, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board will announce the results. Meanwhile, the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) is preparing to announce the results of the KCET.

According to sources, KEA is waiting for the announcement of the second PUC examination 2 results to award KCET ranks for students. "Several second PUC students have written the examination 2 to improve their marks, and it will impact their KCET ranking. Once these results are announced, it will take hardly a day or two for us to award ranks," a KEA official added.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar is convening a meeting with department officials on Thursday to discuss conducting counselling for engineering courses without waiting for NEET results.

Since the NEET exam has been scrapped and rescheduled for June 21, this will delay the entire seat allotment process. Considering the delay, the department is contemplating conducting counselling for engineering courses.

9 shoppers trapped in lift, rescued in S'mogga mall

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: As many as nine people were rescued after they were trapped inside a lift at a shopping mall in the city on Monday.

According to the mall staff, the lift stopped midway due to a technical malfunction. The occupants remained trapped for nearly 30 minutes before the Fire and Emergency services department was alerted, after hearing their cries for help. Fire fighting staff broke open the iron door with cutter and rescued all.

Post-HC order, KSRTC employees withdraw strike call

Trade unions had set May 19 deadline to state govt

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of trade unions associated with state-run transport corporations has called off the strike initially proposed on May 20, in light of the Karnataka High Court restraining transport unions from going on an indefinite strike.

The high court issued instructions while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition to restrain the proposed strike.

The PIL was filed by a domestic worker and a construction worker on the claim that their livelihoods would be affected as a result of the bus strike.

Strict deadline

The trade unions had issued a strict deadline to the state government demanding a resolution by the afternoon of May 19, failing which they had warned that services in all four state-run transport corporations — Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) would be withdrawn.

Demands not feasible: Transport minister

Transport Minister R Ramalinga Reddy has said that the unions' demand for a 25% salary hike is not financially feasible or sustainable. "What we have offered is the result of much deliberation. A 25% hike would require funds of Rs 1,650 crore annually. This is not possible when we are already dealing with close to Rs 6,000 crore debt left behind by the previous government," he told DH.

UNIONS WANT

- **25% salary increase retrospective from January 1, 2024, rejecting the government's offer of a 12.5% hike from April 2025.**
- **While the government has agreed to pay back wages for 26 months, employees are demanding the arrears for the full 38 months in a single instalment.**
- **The workers want a 31% dearness allowance merged into their basic pay, alongside hikes in daily bata and other allowances.**

The dispute centres on delayed wage revisions, which are legally mandated every four years, but were deferred in 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic. "We respect the High Court's decision, and have decided to call off the strike for now. This court order has also provided us with a positive opportunity, as it has asked the state government to fix a date to meet with the concerned unions to discuss our grievances," said Vijay Bhaskar, general secretary, KSRTC staff and Workers' Federation.

However, some union members called out the government, claiming a misuse of PILs.

"When employees are fighting for their rights, it is unjust for the government to use a PIL to stop the strike. This tarnishes the sanctity of the law. Those in power should not twist the law and use police force to stop people from demanding their rights," said Varalakshmi, S Varalakshmi, CITU state general secretary.

About 12.4 lakh chemists are said to taking part in the protests across the country. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

26k pharmacies to be shut in state today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Around 26,000 chemists across the state and 6,500 in Bengaluru will join the 24-hour nationwide strike called by the All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) on Wednesday to protest against the e-sale of medicines and alleged violations of the Drug and Cosmetics Act.

The strike will begin at 12.01 am on Wednesday and continue till the midnight of the next day.

About 12.4 lakh chemists are said to be taking part in the protests across the country.

R Raghunatha Reddy, President of the Karnataka Chemists and Druggists Association (KCDA), told *DH*, the strike was inevitable as online pharmacies were openly bypassing the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, which prohibits direct home delivery and online sale of medicines.

He added that e-pharmacies were flouting price control regulations by offering discounts of 25% to 40%, far beyond the 16% to 20% retail margin fixed for traditional shops, thereby threatening the survival of small retailers.

"Despite multiple representations to the Centre and even favorable High Court orders, the officials have failed to act. This has left us with no choice but to strike," Reddy stated.

The Association has clarified that the emergency services and pharmacies attached to the hospitals will remain open.

Patients have also been given advance notice over the past 20 days to stock all the essential medicines.

High Court restrains transport unions from going ahead with strike

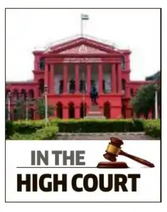
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday passed an interim order restraining the trade unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation employees and its constituents from going ahead with their proposed transport strike from May 20 or acting in terms of their strike notice dated April 29, 2026.

A vacation division bench comprising Justices Suraj Govindaraj and K Manmadha Rao passed the order after hearing a public interest litigation (PIL).

The petition was filed by C Vedavathi and H V Sreedhara, both residents of Bengaluru.

The petition contended that the proposed strike is in direct contravention of Section 22(1)(d) of the Industrial Disputes Act, which prohibits a strike during the pendency of conciliation proceedings.



The petitioners claimed that the conciliation proceedings initiated by the Labour Commissioner's July 18, 2025, notice are pending.

The petitioners submitted that the proposed strike directly coincides with the SSLC supplementary examinations scheduled between May 18 and May 25.

The counsel for the petitioners said that the strike would impact the daily commuters and mainly students appearing for the supplementary examination. The petitioners further submitted that in August 2025, despite the high court's interim order, transport services were disrupted and approximately 17,200 show-cause notices were issued to the employees. The present strike is called despite the government revising the pay at 12.5% with effect from April 1, 2025.

The counsel for KSRTC and other three state transport corporations submitted that 12.5% hike is cleared by the authorities and already Rs 450 crore has been released as a first instalment towards salary hike.

As the government advocate sought time to file a response to the petition, the division bench granted two days' time.

The bench directed that a meeting be held between the representatives of Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Trade Unions and the transport minister and with the chief minister along with respective secretaries. Before adjourning the hearing, the bench ordered notices to the state government, the KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and the KKRTC, the four state owned transport corporations.

Youth Cong brawl: Notices issued

BENGALURU, DHNS: Six office-bearers of the Karnataka Youth Congress have been issued show-cause notices a day after a brawl inside the party's office was caught on camera.

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has issued notices to its state unit office-bearers Deepika Reddy, Nikhil Kondajji, Prasanth, Nagesh, Govardhan and Sandeep, sources said. They have been asked to explain themselves. A brawl broke out among Karnataka Youth Congress workers on Monday.

The bone of contention was Karnataka Youth Congress president H S Manjunatha's decision to keep 'on hold' the position of over a dozen office-bearers, citing 'inactive participation' in organisational activities. Among those put on hold was Deepika Reddy, Manjunatha's rival.

New AC BMTC service from Bengaluru to Tumakuru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has launched a new Volvo air-conditioned (AC) Vajra Vistara bus service between Bengaluru and Tumakuru.

The service was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday.

The buses will operate 54 trips daily using 10 vehicles at 20-minute intervals, running from the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru to Tumakuru. The route includes stops at Navarang, Govardhan Talkies, Goraguntepalya, Jalahalli Cross, T Dasarahalli, 8th Mile, Widia Stop and Kyathsandra.

The fare from Bengaluru to Tumakuru has been fixed at Rs 120, inclusive of GST and toll charges.

The corporation already operates Volvo Vajra Vistara services to destinations such as Channapatna and Kanakapura.

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Announcements

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I, **D AKILA** W/o R RAMESH, R/at No. 14/1, Munishwara Temple Street, MD Ali Road, Periyar Nagar, B S A Road Cross, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, declare that I have changed my religion from Hinduism (Schedule Caste Adi Dravida) to **Christianity** vide affidavit dated 18-05-2026 before notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KUMAR S/o. Krishnappa, No.45, Adarshnagar, 2nd 'E' Mn, 3rd Crs, Defence Colony, Kavalbyrasandra, R.T Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560 032 have changed my minor son's name from **CHIRAG ADITYA K** to **CHIRAG ADITHYA K** vide affidavit dt 18.05.2026 sworn before notary Sivakumara M N, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PUSHPA N,** Residing at No. 27, Bovi Bande, Narayanapura, D.V Nagar, Bengaluru- 560016, have changed my name to **LATHA REDDY,** vide affidavit dated 18.05.2026 before Notary A.S. Narayana Reddy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MIRALI RASHMI HARIA** W/o TAKSH MARU aged 28 years, residing at No. 451, 1st Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore-79, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from MIRALI RASHMI HARIA to **MIRALI TAKSH MARU** vide affidavit dated 14/05/2026 sworn before L. Puttaraju, Notary, Bangalore. Henceforth, I shall be known as **MIRALI TAKSH MARU** for all future purposes

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K. K. INDUMATHI D/o. NARAYAN NAGARAJ Residing at Malur Taluk, Banahalli Post, Tekal, Kolar District-563137 have Changed my Name to **INDU KRISHNA KUMAR** vide affidavit dated: 16.05.2026 Sworn before Notary H.K.Gopala Gowda, Bangalore.

I, SHABNUM KHAN, have changed my name to SHABNUM KHANUM, vide affidavit dated 19/05/2026 before notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

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SIR: Activists concerned over exclusion of transgender persons

BENGALURU, DHNS: Activists representing transgender persons and other vulnerable communities on Tuesday met Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar and expressed concerns over their possible exclusion during the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls - scheduled to begin from June 20.

The delegation was led by transgender activist Akkai Padmashali and Sowmya A of the Trans Feminist Collective, and members of the My Vote, My Right' campaign, including advocate Vinay Sreenivasa and Lekha Adavi.

They stated that transgender persons, sex workers, devadasis and members of the LGBTQ+ community were at the risk of being left out of the SIR process due to lack of supporting documents and difficulties in the pre-SIR voter mapping exercise.

They urged the Election Commission to establish dedicated helpdesks for vulnerable communities.

The CEO, reportedly assured them that voter facilitation centres would be set up at the ward level to assist voters during the revision process.

Akkai Padmashali stressed the need to sensitise Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to the concerns faced by transgender persons and ensure their identities are protected during the verification process. She also called for adequate training for BLOs and greater engagement with community organisations to prevent disenfranchisement.

179 professors, academicians ask APU to revoke student's suspension

BENGALURU, DHNS: After Azim Premji University (APU) suspended a student for reportedly organising a discussion on Kashmir, more than 179 professors and academicians associated with various universities have signed an open letter addressed to the APU, urging the varsity to revoke the student's suspension.

Condemning the APU administration for what they dubbed was 'continued targeting' of the students, the signatories demanded that the varsity immediately revoke the suspension, and withdraw the punitive action against two other students.

Pointing out that a university must serve as a space for critical inquiry and democratic engagement, the signatories also expressed concern over the impact that such punitive actions might have on the future of the students.

"Equally important are the conversations, debates and forms of collective engagement that take place on campuses apart from the formal academic activities. It is through such interactions that students imbibe critical thinking and develop sensibilities towards social justice, and learn about democratic participation. While the students at APU may not have followed the protocol mandated by the administration, these lapses do not justify such severe punishments. The students' actions were directed towards nurturing intellectual and social engagement of the kind that universities are meant to foster. At a time when academic freedom is being curtailed on university campuses across India, it is imperative that varsity administrations defend, rather than suppress spaces for critical dialogue," the letter read.

On May 8, APU suspended a student for two years and issued a written warning to two others, after violence erupted on the varsity campus on February 24 when Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad members vandalised the campus to disrupt a discussion on Kashmir.

Parties seek extension of SIR, flag risk of voters' exclusion

'Put off for a year as no major elections are coming up'

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Representatives of recognised political parties have urged the Election Commission (EC) to extend the timeline for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by a year, arguing that no major elections are lined up in the state and a narrow enumeration window could lead to wrongful deletions or exclusion of voters.

The SIR process is due to begin in the state on June 20.

"There are no major elections lined up. So, the SIR enumeration process can be extended by a year as migrant workers, nomadic communities, and families temporarily away from home could be left out of the draft electoral rolls if the exercise is rushed," Congress spokesperson Ramesh Babu said during an all-party meeting convened by Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar.

The Election Commission should provide sufficient time for voters to secure supporting documents from revenue authorities, Babu urged.

Flagging concerns over the exclusive reliance on Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for the distribution of enumeration forms to 5.5 crore voters, Congress and AAP representatives argued that lapses or political bias at the BLO level could deprive eligible voters of their franchise.

The BJP questioned how the Election Commission would ensure BLOs made the mandatory three visits to voters' homes before marking them "unavailable".

"Currently, there is no mechanism to independently verify whether BLOs visited every household. We suggested that BLOs should upload photographs of locked houses on the BLO application during visits to establish proof of door-to-door visit for enumeration," said Darshan Jain, state general secretary, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The parties demanded that Booth Level Agents (BLAs) be granted access to voter facilitation centres to assist voters in submitting enumeration forms.

BJP's representative S Dattatre suggested that the "progeny mapping" in the current form did not help identify family relationships sans a proper 'Vamshavruksha' (family tree).

While the voter mapping crossed 86 per cent across Karnataka, Bengaluru city remained a concern with only around 65 per cent coverage.

"As per the EC, Hebbal Assembly constituency alone has 26 polling booths with less than 9 per cent mapping. Incomplete verification directly affects the distribution of enumeration forms and eventually exclusion," Jain rued.

CPI(M) office secretary Balakrishna Shetty objected to the EC seeking fresh documents even from the voters verified during the 2002 SIR exercise.

"Even a minor mismatch in age or gender between electoral records and enumeration forms could lead to notices seeking documentary proof (one of the 11 documents approved by the ECI). If voters failed to respond in time, their names could ultimately be deleted from the final rolls," Shetty warned.

'Summer, musth stage, overcrowding trigger elephants'

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The tussle between two elephants — Marthanda and Kanjan — at the Dubare elephant camp in Kodagu district, which resulted in the death of Marthanda and a woman tourist from Chennai, has raised concerns over the psychological stress that wild animals, in continuous contact with humans, face.

Experts pointed out that the summer season, coupled with the continuous flow of tourists, could have triggered the incident.

Dr Chaithanya Sridhar, a trans-species psychologist, said, "It is peak tourist season and everyone wants to bathe and feed these animals. But the people engaging in these activities must exercise caution. As humans, we have lost the dignity of the wild."

"Kanjan was captured from Hassan forest and was not born in captivity, making it wilder in nature. Such elephants do not usually like people entering their space. We are taking a huge risk by allowing tourists near these animals," she added.

Experts also pointed out that elephants undergo different behavioural stages in life. Young adult male elephants, especially during the musth stage, experience heightened testosterone levels and increased aggression.

Arun Kumar, member of the Animal Welfare Board, said, "The elephants in the camp are not completely captive; they are semi-wild and their behaviour can be unpredictable. Giant animals, especially, should not be used for recreational activities."

'Marthanda' succumbs to injuries

MADIKERI, DHNS: Marthanda, the 53-year-old elephant who had suffered multiple injuries during the attack by 26-year-old elephant Kanjan, breathed its last at Dubare Elephant Camp in Kushalnagar taluk on Tuesday.

No sooner the veterinary doctors pronounced the death of elephant, its mahout Ghouse and caretaker Naveen broke down.

Kanjan had pierced Marthanda's stomach, ears and private parts with its long tusks. "There were very deep wounds at five to six places on the body. Despite treatment, it could not be saved," a veterinary doctor said.

'Cong govt suppressed farmer suicide numbers in K'taka'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday alleged that the Congress government in the state had deliberately suppressed farmer suicide cases.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with party leaders here, he said, "As per my information and according reports over 5,394 farmers have lost their lives in two years in the state. Karnataka stands second in the country in farmer suicide cases. Is the state government unaware of these figures? Or is it knowingly suppressing them?".

"I was deeply shocked after reading reports about farmers suicides in the state. I had hoped that this government would wake up after media reports on farmer suicides. But this government is busy holding conventions, and has no concern for the welfare of farmers," the union minister added.

Citing the National Crime Records Bureau report, Kumaraswamy stated that 2,423 farmers and agricultural labourers had died by suicide in 2023 and the numbers risen to 2,971 in 2024 in Karnataka.

"In just two years, a total of 5,394 farmers have lost their lives. The government had deliberately concealed such a massive number of farmer suicides. My question is, have they organised a convention in Tumakuru to celebrate these suicides?" he asked.

Township project

Responding to the challenge by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar regarding the Bidadi Township, Kumaraswamy said he was ready for a open debate anytime anywhere.

"I am ready for a debate. Nearly 3,500 people have submitted objections and petitions in Bidadi. Farmers are being threatened through goons and the police. If the project was genuinely beneficial, farmers themselves would have happily given their land. But here, farmers are unwilling to part with their land. Therefore, the government must act in the interest of farmers," the union minister said.

Akhanda to join JD(S) again

Once a JD(S) leader, former legislator Akhanda Srinivas Murthy will again join the party. Following decisions, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy visited Murthy's residence on Tuesday.

"He is keen on joining the JD(S). We will soon finalise a date and formally induct him into the party," he added.

After quitting the JD(S), Murthy had joined Congress in 2018. After Congress denied him ticket in Assembly elections in 2023, he contested unsuccessfully from BSP. In 2024, he joined BJP.

Canada High Commissioner Chris Cotter meets CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Canadian High Commissioner Chris Cooter met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and held talks on Tuesday.

This was Cooter's first formal bilateral engagement with a southern Indian state.

"Canada is committed to deepening trade, energy and people-to-people ties with Karnataka. Cities, like Bengaluru, increasingly function as India's global-facing innovation corridors, bringing together deep tech talent, advanced industry, research institutions and globally integrated supply chains," Cooter said in a statement.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah greets Canada's High Commissioner to India, Chris Cooter, at his official residence, Cauvery, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

A significant share of Indian technology companies expanding in Canada, such as Infosys, TCS, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra, are headquartered or rooted in Karnataka, employing tens of thousands of workers across Canadian provinces, the statement read.

KEA's Mentor app to help students in 'right' seat selection

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has developed a mobile app 'KEA Connect' to help students and parents in making the right choice during medical and engineering seat selection this year.

Along with faculty members of professional colleges, students who got seats through KCET during 2025 have been registered as 'mentors'. Seat aspirants, this year, can login to the app and seek mentoring.

As explained by the KEA authorities, this will prevent students from opting for paid mentors. "Last year, we have received complaints against some private companies and YouTubers posing as mentors and cheating students by charging thousands of rupees. There were even instances where those mentors misguided students and forced them to pick management quota," said an official of the KEA.

As per the information available from the KEA, this year, 4,500 students have been registered as mentors, so far, to assist the students aspiring to get professional courses seats.

Each mentor will be assigned with two students and the guidance is free of cost. "Interested candidates can make use of the app. We are also making it mandatory for registered mentors to submit declaration and the students will also have option to change the mentors," said Prasanna H, Executive Director, KEA.

In the declaration, they must mention they are volunteering for the KEA to help seat aspirants free of charge and will not promote any institutions.

How does it work?

As soon as the seat aspirants log in to the App, they will get a display of five mentors with details of the course they are studying, name and the college. The students have the right to pick any of them. "If the student is female, then female mentor will be assigned and for male candidates male mentors," clarified Prasanna.

Guidance is allowed via chat and if necessary they can connect via phone call, he added.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
No: EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ 3rd Call Tender Notification No: 01/2026-27: Dtd: 18.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call 3
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

Ref: 1) No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ Tender Notification No: 01/2026-27: Dtd: 04.04.2026
2) No: EE/ KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No: 01/2026-27: Dtd: 29.04.2026

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is Rs.97.40 Lakhs. The amount of EMD is Rs.1,95,000/- (by kpp portal) contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from 19.05.2026 to 26.05.2026 upto 17.30 hours in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Technical Bid will be opened on 27.05.2026 at 17.30 hours and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd:21.05.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 08 Months (Including monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL,No.4BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/82/05/252

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(Govt. of Karnataka)
ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ,
ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ,

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಬಲದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ. ಹೊಳೆನರಸೀಪುರ, ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–573211

Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Right Bank Canal, Division, Holenarasipura, Hassan District-573211

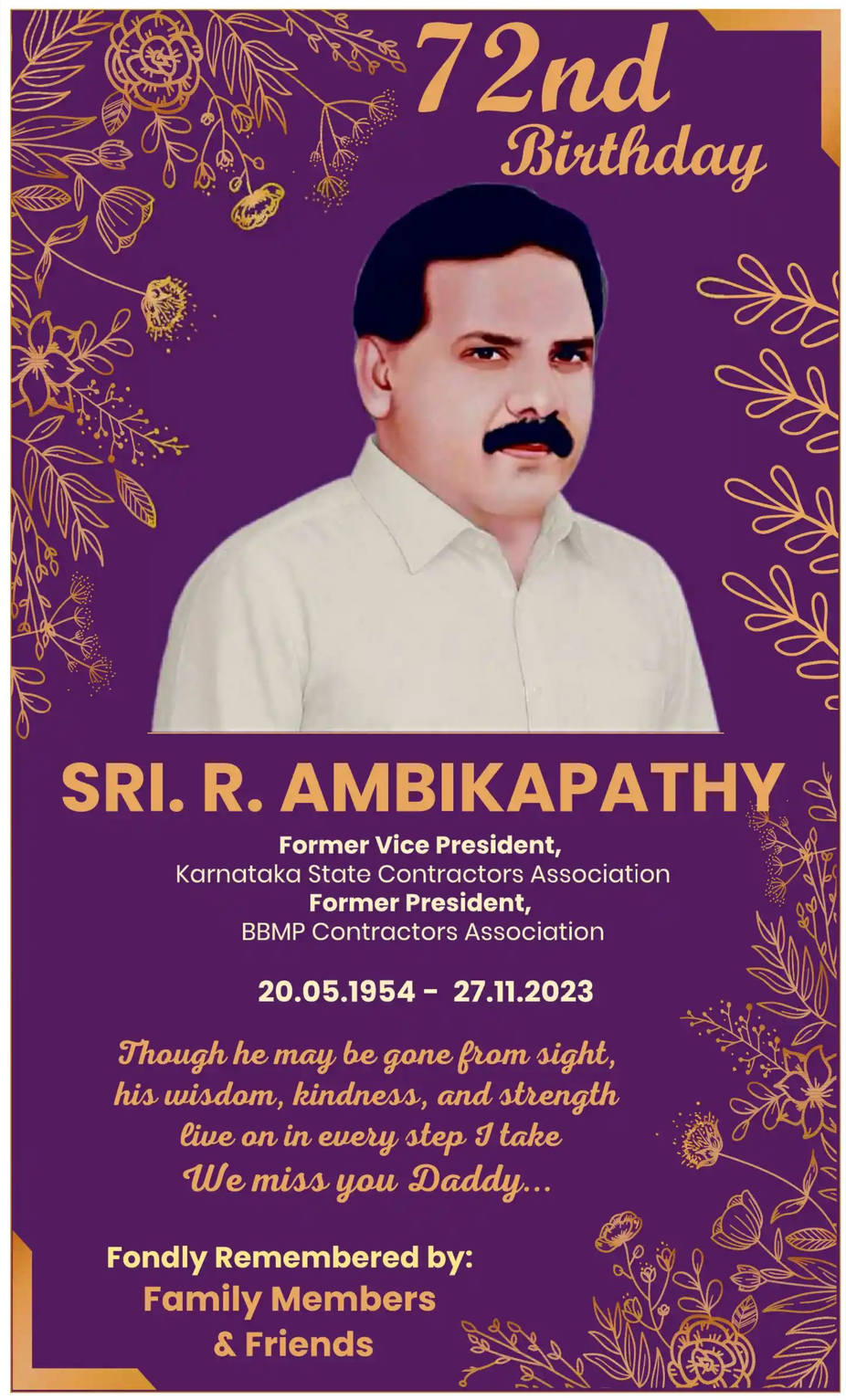
ದೂ.: 08175-273238 e-mail: eehrbchnp@gmail.com
Phone: 08175-273238

Short Term Tender Notification 01/2026-27 Dated: 18.05.2026

Item rate tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only for the below mentioned work in two cover system as per KW-3 by the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Right Bank canal Division, Holenarasipura Hassan Dist., Karnataka State on behalf of the Managing Director, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore from the eligible Contractors of KPWD/CPWD/ Other Public Sector Organizations and should have registered their names in the CNNL, Mysore/Bangalore as category II and above. The details of events are below. 1.Tender processing charges (in Rs.) : Refer as per e-Procurement. 2.The contractor can have access to e-tender document from 18.05.2026 to 25.05.2026 up to 4.00 pm. 3.Cover–I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi right bank canal division Holenarasipura on 27.05.2026 at 11.00 AM. 4.Cover –II (Financial bid) will be opened only after approval of Technical bid on 29.05.2026 on words. 5.No. of work: 02 Work 6.Nature of work: Building works 7.Cost of works: Cost of Rs. 90.00 lakhs each 8.EMD : The prescribed format EMD declaration, as per Govt., order fd675exp-12/2020 Bangalore dated: 22.12.2020 9.Class of Contractor: Class III and above. Note:- 1)The under signed reserves right to reject or accept the tenders at any time without giving any reasons. 2)The amount put to tender is subject to variation and the details of tender can be had in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also during office hours. 3)The bidder should upload the necessary documents as per the pre-qualification criteria vide bid document in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, HRBC Division, Holenarasipura-573211.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/147/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26



BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

Providing Electrical infrastructure to the regularized IP sets by extending 11 KV lines, Erection of 25 KVA Star 1 (4 Star) rated Distribution Transformers and Extension of LT line on Partial Turnkey basis (25 KVA Distribution Transformers will be supplied by BESCOM) under item wise fixed price contract on PERCENTAGE QUOTING BASIS.

Tender No's for SC category	Tender No's for ST category	Tender No's for Category-I	Tender No's for Category-IIA	Tender No's for Others
BESCOM/2025-2026/EL/WORK_INDENT 1033, 1035 Call-2	BESCOM/2025-2026/EL/WORK_INDENT 1029 Call-2	BESCOM/2025-2026/EL/WORK_INDENT 1027 Call-2	BESCOM/2025-2026/EL/WORK_INDENT 1032, 1036,1039 Call-2	BESCOM/2025-2026/EL/WORK_INDENT 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1028, 1030, 1031, 1034, 1037, 1038, 957, 970, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 981 Call-2

Time Schedule:(1) Availability of Bid documents : **21-05-2026 @ 17:00** Hrs onwards. **(2)** Last date for submission of Queries :**27-05-2026** before **17:00** Hrs. **(3)** Pre-Bid meeting: **29-05-2026 @ 11:00** Hrs. **(4)** Pre-Bid meeting Venue : Office of Chief Engineer(Ele), O&M Zone, BESCOM, Turuvanur Road, Opp RTO Office, Chitradurga. **(5)** Last date for bid submission : **06-06-2026 @ 17:00** Hrs. **(6)** Opening of Technical Bids : **08-06-2026 @ 11:00** Hrs.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the KPP portal from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: 9240214000 & 9240214001 E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on KPP portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele).,
O&M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga

DECCAN HERALD
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Bail as rule: Some uneasy questions

The Supreme Court's questioning of its earlier verdict denying bail to Umar Khalid, in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots, exposes judicial mishandling that also extended the injustice the State meted out to him. Khalid and co-accused Sharjeel Imam have been in jail for over five years. Courts, including the Supreme Court, have rejected multiple pleas for bail. On Monday, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan made it clear, while hearing another bail case, that an earlier rejection of bail by a two-judge bench violated principles laid down by a three-judge bench of the Court in *Union of India vs. K A Najeeb* (2021). In that case, the bench affirmed that bail is the rule and jail the exception, even in cases under the draconian Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act (UAPA), if the trial is delayed.

Pointing to earlier rulings that established the primacy of individual rights, the Court underlined the importance of compliance with these precedents. It observed that smaller benches have hollowed out the reasoning of larger benches without expressly disagreeing with them. These are strong comments that should guide the Court, especially its smaller benches, while hearing such cases. The continued incarceration of Khalid – accused of conspiracy in connection with the riots – defies reason and principles of justice, while the Union government appears determined to keep him in jail. The Court noted that pre-trial incarceration would begin to acquire a post-trial punitive character if *prima facie* accusations made by the investigating agency were accepted as true to deny bail. This happened in Khalid's case, where the process became punishment. In a striking validation, a day after the apex court's critique, a Delhi court dismissed Khalid's interim plea for bail to take part in his uncle's post-death rituals and to take care of his ailing mother.

By questioning its own denial of Umar Khalid's bail, the Supreme Court reiterates the primacy of personal liberty

The Court did well to reiterate that the basic principle about bail also applies to UAPA cases. It said the right to personal liberty and speedy trial cannot be subordinate to the stringent bail provision laid down by Section 43-D(5) of the UAPA. It also pointed out that the conviction rate in UAPA cases is a low 2-6%. These observations are important in an environment where the State wields tools that can place fundamental rights under strain. The Umar Khalid case is a telling example of oppressive State conduct. It is rare that the Supreme Court questions its own judgment. These questions, raised on both technical and substantive grounds, must be heard and answered.

Dubare exposes fatal safety risks

The horrific death of a 33-year-old tourist from Chennai at the Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu is not merely an accident. It is a grim reminder of what happens when commercial tourism, poor safety planning, and unpredictable wild-animal behaviour collide. The videos from the scene – showing a distraught husband clutching his toddler in one arm while desperately trying to pull his wife from beneath a fallen elephant – are chilling. The tragedy unfolded when two captive elephants, Kanchan and Marthanda, clashed violently during a bathing session. Marthanda reportedly lost balance and fell on the tourist, crushing her under its weight. Equally disturbing was the apparent absence of even basic emergency preparedness. There were no robust barricades, no adequate crowd-control mechanisms, no immediate trauma-care facility, and no ambulance stationed at a site that routinely places hundreds of tourists in proximity to multi-ton animals.

What makes the lapse harder to defend is that Kanchan is known to have displayed aggressive behaviour earlier as well. The clash was so severe that Marthanda later succumbed to its injuries. Captive elephants may be trained, but they remain wild animals governed by instinct, stress, and territorial aggression. The government's new Standard Operating Procedures – including a 100-foot viewing distance, prohibition on touching or feeding elephants, and a ban on close selfies – are belated corrective steps that amount to an admission that the earlier system was recklessly permissive. India need not reinvent the wheel. Sri Lanka's Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage follows stricter protocols. Tourists are physically separated from elephants during bathing sessions, aggressive males are isolated, and a large network of handlers and emergency-response systems remains constantly deployed. Safety, not spectacle, drives the model.

The tragedy at the elephant camp calls for protocols that place safeguards above spectacle

But the larger ethical and ecological question cannot be ignored. What should be done with captured elephants amid rising man-animal conflict? Should they continue to be converted into tourism attractions and temple assets, where elephant attacks are frequent? Or should governments invest in long-term habitat protection and scientific conflict mitigation? Kodagu can ill-afford repeated blows to its reputation. This is already the third major tourism-related incident in the last two months alone, after a trekker got lost in Tadiandamol and an American tourist was allegedly raped at a homestay. Tourist safety is paramount. Repeated failures will not only tarnish Kodagu's image but also reflect poorly on Karnataka and India's tourism governance. The Dubare tragedy must therefore become a turning point. Wildlife tourism cannot operate on improvisation and luck. Human lives and animal welfare both demand professionalism, scientific management, and uncompromising safety standards.

THE MISSING MANDATE

Empowered SEC can restore local democracy

Repeated poll delays in Karnataka strengthen the case for an election commission with greater autonomy

SANTOSH NARGUND

The Karnataka State Election Commission (SEC)'s recent announcement that elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will be held in June 2026 offered long-awaited hope for restoring democratic governance in Bengaluru. After years of delay, the Supreme Court in January 2026 directed that elections be completed before June 2026 'in all circumstances', ruling out further extensions. The order followed the Karnataka government's assurance to the Court that ward delimitation and reservation exercises would be completed by March 2026, enabling election notification in May. However, if media reports suggesting another postponement prove true, it would amount to nothing less than a grave disservice to local democracy.

Bengaluru has effectively remained without an elected city government since September 2020, when the term of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council expired. What followed has been a prolonged constitutional limbo. A Karnataka High Court order in December 2020 directed the SEC to conduct elections within six weeks. Yet, the state government appealed to the Supreme Court, and nearly six years later, Bengaluru still awaits an elected city council.

This prolonged vacuum represents the systematic erosion of decentralised democracy envisaged under the 74th Constitutional Amendment. It is inconceivable for Parliament or a State Assembly to remain unelected for such a long period. Yet, the prolonged absence of elected local governments has been normalised in Karnataka.

Bengaluru is not an isolated case of delayed local elections – it is merely a reflection of the deep crisis in local democracy that Karnataka has slipped into. The state, once regarded as a pioneer of decentralised local governance even before the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, is now earning the dubious distinction of being among the least democratic states in conducting timely local government elections. Over the past decade, delays have increasingly become the rule rather than the exception.

While Bengaluru's city elections have been stalled for nearly six years, elections to Zilla Panchayats and Taluk Panchayats across Karnataka have also remained overdue for five years. Several major city corporations – including Mysuru, Mangaluru, Tumakuru, Davanagere, and Shivamogga – have exceeded their terms by 18 to 30 months. Nearly 200 smaller urban local governments and over 5,900 gram panchayats have also completed their terms. Repeated court interventions have failed to resolve the problem. The SEC has moved the High Court in contempt proceedings in

some instances, while the courts have imposed fines on the state government in others. Yet elections continue to remain stalled.

While the SEC may appear assertive in insisting on elections, it remains structurally too weak to independently enforce them. The SEC was established under Articles 243K and 243ZA of the Constitution through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1993. These provisions vested SECs with the "superintendence, direction and control" of local body elections – mirroring, in spirit, the authority of the Election Commission of India (ECI) for national and state polls. In practice, however, SECs remain dependent on state governments for key election processes, staffing, and finances. Delays in ward delimitation, reservation notifications, and administrative approvals often become convenient grounds to postpone elections indefinitely.

Power through reform

CAG audits on Karnataka's implementation of the 73rd and 74th Amendments observe that the weak institutional capacity of SECs contributed to delayed local elections. The recent NITI Aayog report on effective city governance also recommends measures to ensure timely local elections. Structural reforms to strengthen the SEC are urgently required by effecting changes to the state panchayat raj and municipal laws.

First, ward delimitation and reservation powers must be vested in an independent constitutional authority such as the SEC rather than the state government. Karnataka had vested these powers in the SEC for its rural local governments until amendments in 2021 withdrew them. For urban local governments, the SEC never had these powers.

Second, delimitation and reservation exercises should be legally mandated at fixed intervals – once every ten years following the Census – and not altered in between. Frequent revisions have often resulted in delays in routine democratic functioning.

Third, the appointment of State Election Commissioners must become more transparent and bipartisan. A high-level committee comprising the Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, and the Chief Justice of the High Court should make the appointments, replacing the state government's current practice of nomination.

Fourth, the SEC must be given staffing and financial autonomy, with its expenditure charged directly to the Consolidated Fund of the state.

Fifth, the SEC should submit annual reports to the Governor detailing election preparedness, timelines, delays, and the reasons for postponement. These reports should be mandatorily tabled in the state legislature to bring transparency and accountability into a process currently marked by opacity.

Stalled local elections deprive citizens of their right to an accountable and responsive local government on which they rely for quality public infrastructure, services, and safety. Repeated judicial intervention cannot remain the default mechanism for restoring local democracy. Karnataka can reclaim its leadership in decentralised governance by strengthening the SEC and effecting related reforms so that elections occur not when governments find them convenient, but before the expiry of constitutionally mandated five-year terms.

(The writer is Director, Policy Engagement, at Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

When power built a classroom

The true measure of political intent lies in the institutions left behind

PRIYANKA SINGH

Institutions often outlive the moments that created them. Over time, buildings become routine, and the circumstances that once made them improbable slowly recede from memory. In Shahabad Markanda, generations of young women have entered classrooms without necessarily knowing that a political decision made decades ago helped make those doors possible.

In the years after Independence, girls' education in towns across Haryana remained shaped by hesitation as much as aspiration. Families weighed distance, social expectations, and questions of propriety before allowing daughters to continue their studies. In such a scenario, the establishment of a girls' college was never merely administrative. It meant altering the social possibilities available to women in the town.

It was in this setting that Banu Ram Gupta made a choice that now feels unusually restrained for public life. A freedom fighter who had been imprisoned several times — including in Mianwali Jail, now in Pakistan, for defying colonial orders and hoisting the national flag — he belonged to a generation for whom politics were closely tied to institution building.

The occasion arose during the 1969 by-election in Shahabad Markanda. He stepped aside when the ruling party nominated another candidate, despite being considered a strong contender for the ticket. At the request of the then chief minister Bansi Lal, he campaigned for the party nominee.

In a political culture where support often carries expectations of office, influence, or accommodation, Banu Ram Gupta followed a different path. After the party candidate won, the jubilant chief minister asked him what he wanted in return. He requested financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh for a girls' college in Shahabad Markanda. The amount was sanctioned.

Today, the figure itself may not appear extraordinary. But institutions are not measured only in money. Sometimes, their significance lies in someone, at a particular historical moment, choosing to direct power away from personal advancement and towards a public need whose value would unfold gradually across generations.

For many families, a local girls' college changed the geography of permission. Distances that once discouraged higher study became manageable. Futures that earlier depended upon negotiation within the family acquired a degree of legitimacy through proximity and access.

What remains striking about such episodes is not idealism alone, but clarity — the recognition that lasting public change is often built through institutions whose significance unfolds gradually across generations. At a time when public life is increasingly shaped by visibility, and symbolic positioning, the slower work of building institutions often recedes from attention. Yet enduring change rarely emerges from rhetoric. It is sustained through schools, colleges, libraries, and public structures that widen access over time. The measure of political intent finally lies not in how often it is proclaimed but in what it leaves behind for others to inherit.

The story of that request made in 1969 survives now mostly in fragments of local recollection, gradually receding from the shared memory of Shahabad even as the institution it helped build continues to shape lives across generations.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM's silence sends a poor message

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ignoring a Norwegian journalist in Oslo does not augur well for India's global image. The PM should have acknowledged and answered the journalist's questions and clarified India's stand and record on human rights. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, Modi shunned the press after the 2002 Godhra incident, and he has continued the same approach after assuming the Prime Minister's office. His ignoring the press does not inspire trust and does a disservice to India's record of transparency and accountability. Interaction with the press is necessary to clear the air on a variety of issues affecting the public. Historically, Indian Prime Ministers have maintained a direct and cordial relationship with the press, even if it was adversarial. Prime Minister Modi's scripted interactions with select journalists do not behove his office, nor do they portray a vibrant, free democracy. No wonder India figures near the bottom of the press freedom index.
C Vijay Kumar, Bengaluru

A welcome example

The oath-taking ceremony of the new government in Kerala, headed by V D Satheesan, provided a refreshing spectacle. Lately, such State ceremonies have become party affairs and are often marred by opposition boycotts. Kerala, after a long time, painted a different picture, with political parties across the spectrum, including the BJP and the LDF, participating in the ceremony. It was heartening to see political rancour and animosity set aside after the elections -- a rare sight indeed.
K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

The burden of history

I refer to 'Bhojshala ruling alters a fragile balance' (May 19). Reports suggest that the ASI, despite the court's express order, had refused to conduct carbon dating to assess the nature of the artefacts. Moreover, there are allegations that the ASI did not mention the retrieval of a figurine of the Buddha from the precincts in its report. More pressure is likely to build against the Places of Worship Act, which is already being challenged in the Supreme Court. In a society marked by religious pluralism, attempts to unearth the historical veracity of religious structures are more likely than not to reveal layered histories.
S S Paul, Nadia (WB)

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

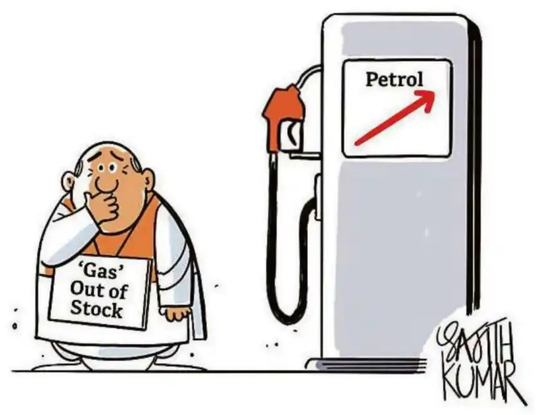
SPEAK OUT

Rahul Gandhi always stands with foreign companies and attacks Indian institutions. Today, the country demands answers from Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party.

Sudhanshu Trivedi, BJP MP

Many are muddying the water, drowning questions in a river of words and trying to make us forget what actually the real issue is about.
Erik Pevernagie

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Bracing for an energy emergency

The PM's appeal aligns with reality and can help shape conservation strategies and resilience for the future

BHAMY V SHENOY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on May 10, urged citizens to work from home, use public transport, avoid buying gold, reduce cooking oil consumption, shun imported goods and foreign trips, and use less fertiliser. These austerity appeals are well-timed against the backdrop of the war in West Asia and its geopolitical and economic fallout.

The call to cut oil and gas consumption and save foreign exchange is strategic, relatively easy to follow, and aligns with climate goals. Others could be replaced with stronger policy tools. Raising import duties would likely prove far more effective than appeals alone. Still, there should be no doubt about the reasons for the Prime Minister's call to citizens to contribute during a war-like situation.

One may question why the Prime Minister did not make these appeals sooner. Even assuming the conflict was always going to be extended, could the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the resultant loss of 20% of global oil supplies have been predicted?

In fact, the Union government tried to limit the consumption of the most critical product – LPG – by restricting it mostly to domestic consumers soon after the war started. We know the resultant havoc. For all of the above reasons, the Prime Minister's timing for the appeal is justified.

Why should we view this as a war-like situation when India has no direct role? The answer is India's import dependence: 89% for oil, 50% for natural gas, and 70% for urea from the Gulf countries. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz chokes these supply lines. That creates two problems: physical shortages and a surge in foreign exchange demand due to higher prices.

Assume India's import basket to last for $110 per barrel for the rest of the year. The additional foreign exchange burden would be about $59 billion. If the conflict worsens, the oil price could exceed $200 per barrel. This estimate is based on my experience working for a large multinational oil company during the first two oil shocks, where I was responsible for forecasting the price.

During the 1973 and 1978 oil shocks, supply losses were far below today's estimated 10 million barrels per day, yet prices jumped 400% and 300%, respectively. At $200 per barrel, India's added foreign exchange requirement would reach $355 billion, up $218 billion from the previous year. India cannot afford that. This scenario analysis likely prompted the Prime Minister's appeal.

Whether we like it or not, India is in a war-like situation. We must set aside political differences and prepare to face the crisis together. The rupee has already fallen from 91 at the end of February to 96 per dollar. It is Asia's worst-performing currency this year. If oil prices were to increase to $200 per barrel, it may fall to below 110 per dollar. The current account deficit will also be severely impacted.

Opportunity in crisis

After the war in Iran started and oil prices started to rise, the government reduced excise taxes on petrol and diesel. Also, it did not allow the oil companies to increase the prices to pass on their higher costs of buying crude oil till May 15. Finally, the oil companies were "allowed" to raise the prices by Rs 3 per litre, the first hike in four years. Another hike of around 90 paise per litre followed on Tuesday. Still, the oil companies are estimated to be losing Rs 3,000 crore a week.

The companies are supposedly free to fix prices. In reality, however, the Union Ministry of Petroleum retains control. The opposition parties have been critical of the government over the hike in fuel prices. But that is politics – sitting in opposition, the ruling party and its allies would not have acted any differently. The more prudent and sustainable policy is to let the oil companies decide on the prices based on the international market.

Even with its potentially far-reaching fallout, the current global energy crisis provides an opportunity for India. This is a moment where we can honour the Prime Minister's appeal and build on it to develop safeguards against climate change.

Underlying many of these appeals is India's civilisational principle of simple living and high thinking. The country promoted the idea of sustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption as a response to climate change through its Mission LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment programme at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, 2022. We can apply this principle to address the current oil crisis and future challenges.

(The writer has over 50 years of experience in international oil. He has served as a USAID consultant in FSU countries and an advisor to ONGC)

'Bhojshala identity is a colonial-era rebranding, has no archival backing'

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has declared that the disputed Bhojshala complex in Dhar district is a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati. It has ruled that the Centre and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) can decide on its administration and management. Historian Ruchika Sharma explains how the 14th-century mosque with Jain material roots was transformed into a nationalist flashpoint and why the ASI's 'Saraswati temple' theory is flawed. *Excerpts:*

Ruchika Sharma, *Medieval India historian and Professor, Delhi University, in conversation with* **Giridhar Narayan**

THE DEEP TAKE

● Since researchers trace the term 'Bhojshala' back only to 1903, how do you view the legal weight being given to a name that lacks a pre-colonial archival trail?

It is sad because the association they are making that this was a Saraswati temple comes even after 1903. This 'massive discovery' by the then ASI director K N Dikshit, who found a sculpture in the British Museum which he said is Saraswati, was ridiculous because there is an inscription on it that says this is a statue of goddess Ambika/Amba, a Jain goddess.

The remains which have been used in the Kamal Maula Mosque are Jain temple remains. And they have nothing to do with a Saraswati temple. Even the name Bhojshala is incorrect. What K K Lele (who was in charge of the archaeological department at Dhar), who in 1903 gave this name, wanted it to mean was King Bhoja's school. But *shala* does not mean a school. A school would have been called a *vidyalay*, *vidyapeeth* or *gyanpeeth*...

This 120-year history is being given far more importance than the fact that an inscription on the mosque states that the structure was first repaired by Dilawar Khan Ghori, the governor of the Malwa region, in 1392-93.

● Does the legal search for an 'original religious character' overlook the functional ways medieval builders operated?

What exactly is the legal framework looking for? Because if the argument is that this is a mosque, which was made by reusing a temple wholesale, then they would have had to add the *mihrab* (a semicircular niche in the wall) and the *minbar* (a pulpit)... So, they did just this and let the temple be as it is? This is not the case here. If you see the height of the pillars in the mosque, it is clear that they have been stacked one on top of the other.

It being made out of reused material does not mean that the material itself, all of it, has come from a temple or temples. These could be pillars that might have come from a palace that has multiple histories associated with it.

Secondly, even the inscriptions found inside the mosque, which are being claimed as 'Hindu inscriptions' with grammatical *sutras*, are basically Sanskrit inscriptions and have a Jain connection.

● Where exactly does the ASI's scientific findings at Dhar clash with the 'political mythology' you have documented?

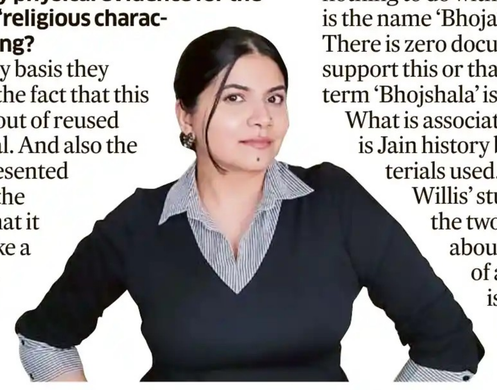
The ASI under the British did a better job at understanding what the structure is than what happened from the 20th century onwards. They identified it as a mosque. They even documented the history of Kamal Malawi's tomb. And then found a 'Hindu inscription'. But they identified that this is reused temple material or reused material of an earlier structure.

The British were one of the first to identify these sort of structures, which have either been made out of reused material, or have been entire temples that have been converted into a mosque, which is very rare in the subcontinent. They identify Kamal Maula's mosque as one made out of reused material. The biggest break is Lele, and then Dikshit in 1917, who radically changed the whole dynamic to this being a Saraswati temple...The judgment says that Jainism is part of Hinduism. I don't see how that is relevant in declaring this to be a temple of Saraswati, because Saraswati is not a Jain deity.

Scan to read the full interview

● If the 'Bhoja's Saraswati' statue in the British Museum is not from this site, what remains as the primary physical evidence for the court's 'religious character' ruling?

The only basis they have is the fact that this is built out of reused material. And also the idea presented before the court that it looks like a temple. No, it does not look like it. No temple looks like this.



● Does the ASI possess the archival data to manage this site as a 'Sanskrit centre', or is the State asking them to curate a legend?

More than a legend, I think this is a carefully manufactured myth. Lele based his claim on the fact that there are two Sanskrit inscriptions inside.

These are grammatical *sutras*, and they have nothing to do with King Bhoja. Where is the name 'Bhoja' coming from? There is zero documentation to support this or that it was a *shala*. The term 'Bhojshala' is a misnomer.

What is associated with the mosque is Jain history because of the materials used. Indologist Michael Willis' study has shown that the two inscriptions talk about a play by a disciple of a Jain scholar. There is Jain history associated with the site. And that needs to be acknowledged.

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly entwined with military and corporate power, a growing number of tech workers are pushing back

The tech workers building AI are scared of it, too

KATE ANDRIAS

This month, UK-based workers at Google DeepMind, the company's artificial intelligence research laboratory, decided to unionise. One of their motivations was concern that their employer was supplying AI tools to militaries. In April, more than 600 Google employees sent a letter to the company's chief executive, Sundar Pichai, demanding he refuse any Pentagon contract that would deploy Google's AI for any classified work — to ensure it couldn't be used for lethal autonomous weapons or mass surveillance, or in other "inhumane or extremely harmful ways." "The only way to guarantee that Google does not become associated with such harms," they wrote, "is to reject any classified workloads."

Across the tech industry, the people who understand AI most intimately — the ones who write its code, train its models and watch its capabilities expand in real time — are increasingly alarmed by what they are building and for whom. Some, like the Google employees, are concerned they are contributing to dangerous military developments. Others worry that AI threatens jobs — their own, as well as in industries as far-reaching as the arts, media, law and banking. Still others are frightened by the privacy implications of the new technology.

By organising, they are insisting that the people closest to AI's development should have a voice in its direction. They can see risks before regulators, lawmakers or the public can. Listening to them is not just a matter of workplace fairness. It is essential to our society's ability to govern the direction of AI.

Tech workers' anxieties about the social impact of their work are not new. In 2018, Google employees organised a large campaign against the company's involvement in Project Maven, a Pentagon initiative using machine learning to analyse drone footage. They circulated an open letter, asked pointed questions at company meetings and created an online group to raise concerns and discuss ways of protesting. It worked. Google eventually announced it would not renew the contract.

Employees across the tech industry got the message — if they acted collectively, they could exercise real power over what their companies build. Contracted Google workers in Pittsburgh would vote to unionise in 2019; Kickstarter employees formed one of the first companywide tech unions the following year; the Alphabet Workers Union launched in 2021; and *The New York Times* tech workers voted overwhelmingly to unionise in 2022. A labour movement among tech workers is no longer theoretical.

And yet, despite all this activity, tech worker organising has not scaled. Private-sector union membership across all industries in the US has fallen to 6% even as nearly 70% of Americans approve of unions. The professional and technical-services sector is even less unionised than the private sector as a whole — only 1.3%.

What explains the gap? The standard answer points to culture. Tech workers often see themselves as professionals aligned with management, not labourers facing exploitation; they identify with their companies' purported missions of driving innovation and solving complex challenges; they are well compensated and enjoy conditions that other workers envy.

NYT

But recent research suggests that the tech industry's unique professional culture can also enable collective action. Tech workers often choose their careers at least in part because they believe technology can benefit society. When their employers violate that belief by building drone targeting systems, supporting immigration enforcement agencies or harvesting workers' expertise to train their replacements, many experience it as a profound betrayal.

Turning those frustrations into sustained organisation requires grappling with legal obstacles. Unlike in much of Western Europe, where workers are unionised at high levels and can bargain as an entire sector to address problems in their industries, in the US the legal system makes organising and bargaining exceedingly difficult. The National Labor Relations Act, the federal law that governs organising and bargaining among private sector workers, promises to protect the right to unionise but often fails to do so in practice. Employers can delay union recognition for months or years through multiple legal challenges. When they illegally fire workers who organise, a disturbingly common practice, or fail to bargain in good faith, the penalties are so weak that they are nearly nonexistent.

Even where unions exist, the law requires employers to bargain only with their own employees; it does not require bargaining to benefit all workers in a sector or a supply chain. This structure is especially ill suited for responding to concerns raised by AI, which is built through chains of engineers, contractors, cloud workers, data annotators, content moderators and vendors spread across firms.

Despite the obstacles, American tech workers have more power than they may realise-- especially engineers building generative AI, who are expensive to hire, train and difficult to replace. They understand the systems they are building better than the regulators trying to govern those systems, better than the executives deploying them and certainly better than the pundits debating their consequences. When they act collectively, they can help safeguard not only their own and society's interests.

If we want AI policy that actually works for the public, then decisions cannot be made by executives and investors alone. Workers must have a say in what they build, whom it serves and how it is used. If they do, the rest of us will have a better chance of living with technology governed by democratic values, not merely by corporate and military imperatives.

(The writer is a professor of law at Columbia Law School)

The New York Times

The generation that grew up with AI hates it

When Eric Schmidt, former CEO of Google, started talking about AI during a commencement speech at the University of Arizona on Friday, the graduates erupted in boos. "AI is going to touch everything," said Schmidt, as his stadium-sized audience roared its disapproval. "Whatever path you choose, AI will become part of how work is done." Maybe he meant this as a promise of opportunity, but the students seemed to hear it as a threat — or a curse.

Something similar happened at the University of Central Florida a week earlier, when real estate executive Gloria Caulfield described AI as "the next industrial revolution." Listeners booed, and someone shouted, "AI sucks!" Caulfield appeared to be caught off guard, but she shouldn't have been, because evidence of a ferocious backlash against AI, especially among young people, is everywhere.

One recent report found that only 18% of Gen Zers feel hopeful about AI, and almost half say the risks outweigh the benefits. AI is increasingly a pop culture villain. "The people who make this stuff are losers," said comedian Hannah Einbinder, star of HBO's *Hacks*, a show that has put hatred of the technology at the centre of its current season. There have even been some high-profile acts of anti-AI violence, including a Molotov cocktail hurled at the home of OpenAI's chief, Sam Altman.

As Americans rebel against AI, the industry's oligarchic leaders are responding by trying to buy even more political influence, pouring money into super political action committees and lobbying. Groups supporting AI and crypto, *Politico* reported this month, "are already becoming the most dominant players on the political battlefield, spending heavily for candidates on both sides of the aisle and in some cases rivalling the fundraising of long-established party groups." The irony is that the industry's attempts to game the democratic system are a big part of its deep unpopularity. NYT

Care for the caregivers

MAYA K AND NEERAJ KUMAR

The 'sandwich generation' is a concept that has gained significant global attention and is included in dictionaries, including the Oxford and Merriam-Webster, as well as in government reports, media discussions, and academic research. The term describes working adults, especially married couples, who have a hard time managing their jobs and taking care of their children and ageing parents. They often feel 'sandwiched' between these different responsibilities, which can lead to stress in their emotions, health, and finances. Globally, the phenomenon has gained importance over the past few decades.

By 2050, there will likely be nearly three times as many sandwiched individuals caring for around two billion ageing family members. The 35–54 age group is most impacted, as caregiving and career pressures peak during these years. A study by Edelweiss Life Insurance and YouGov found that about 60% of individuals in this sandwich generation are concerned about their future financial security. Among 4,000 respondents from 12 Indian cities, many felt their savings were inadequate, with nearly 50% fearing they would run out of money. The sandwich generation faces challenges tied to rising healthcare and education costs, increased reliance on loans and credit cards, inflation, and aspirations for a better lifestyle.

Another important dimension of this issue is gender. While women's labour force participation in India has improved in recent years, women in the sandwich generation continue to face serious challenges balancing their career and caregiving responsibilities. Reports suggest that around 58% of women from this generation have either quit their jobs or compromised their careers due to caregiving responsibilities. Despite similar hours in paid work, women bear a larger burden of unpaid household and caregiving tasks. The Time Use Survey shows that only 21.4% of men participate in caregiving, averaging 74 minutes daily, while 41% of women do, spending nearly 140 minutes. This highlights the persistent gender imbalance in caregiving responsibilities, which remain largely feminised and overlooked in the economy.

In many households, when caregiving responsibilities become overwhelming, it is usually women who step back from the labour market. This is rarely a voluntary choice; it is often a decision shaped by social expectations and practical constraints. Caregiving itself is a physically and emotionally demanding task, leading to stress, anxiety, and burnout, particularly for those in the sandwich generation balancing work and family. In India, the rising prevalence of chronic diseases among the elderly has intensified the need for long-term care, with families typically opting for in-house care over institutional options. Informal caregiving remains prevalent due to cultural values that prioritise family responsibility in caring for elders.

In most Indian households, spouses and daughters-in-law continue to serve as the primary caregivers. Formal paid caregiving services remain unaffordable for many middle-class and lower-income families, especially in the absence of a comprehensive social security system. Consequently, unpaid informal caregiving remains the most relied-upon option, despite the immense burden it places on caregivers. The issue becomes even more critical when viewed alongside a rapidly ageing population. India already has nearly 14.9 crore senior citizens in 2026, which is expected to exceed 23 crore by 2036.

Recognising these emerging challenges, a recent private member's Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha proposed 45 days of paid elderly wellness leave for salaried employees. Introduced by Sumitra Balmik, the Bill seeks to extend elderly care leave provisions similar to maternity and paternity leave policies. The proposed leave would apply to both government and private sector employees and could be used to care for elderly parents, parents-in-law, step-parents, or foster parents during critical situations such as major surgeries, serious illnesses, post-operative care, chronic disease management, end-of-life care, and medical emergencies requiring family presence. However, practical concerns remain.

In a country where even six months of paid maternity leave is not uniformly available to many, the feasibility of securing 45 days of paid elderly care leave remains uncertain. Moreover, in cases involving chronic illnesses, 45 days may not be sufficient to address long-term caregiving needs. Nevertheless, the introduction of such a proposal is significant because it acknowledges a growing social reality that has long remained invisible in policy discussions. In this context, the Rajya Sabha initiative appears both timely and necessary.

(The writers are assistant professors in the Department of Economics, Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

Pak will abide by accord, Bhutto tells PM

New Delhi, May 19

Pakistan Prime Minister Z. A. Bhutto has expressed confidence that "the accord at the recent meeting held between the two delegations at Islamabad will go a long way to establish a positive climate of relations between the two countries." Mr. Bhutto, who was overflying the Indian territory on his way to North Korea and China today, said in a message to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that "we, on our side, will implement the accord by the agreed date."

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

State approves series of investor-friendly reforms

Bangalore, May 19

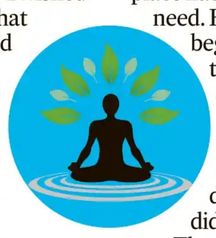
The State Cabinet today approved a series of reform measures to deregulate the business and industrial environment to remove bureaucratic bottlenecks to make the State investor-friendly making it perhaps the first state in the country to come out with such simplifications. Minister of State for Information B K Chandrashekar said the new initiative would considerably reduce the need to have multiple registers for businesses.

OASIS | ADITI PANT

Endings: The closing note in a much richer song

Endings are rarely dressed in grace. More often than not, they arrive untidy, unresolved, heavy with words we wish we hadn't spoken and silences we wish we had filled. They can feel like a betrayal of everything that came before; however, it is at this point that we must remember that the final chapter, albeit important, cannot rewrite the whole story.

I recently resigned from work, and while I was serving my notice period, a lot, as usual, was going on personally. The sale of my house, car, and other logistics began to encroach upon my transition period. Naturally, a lot was going on at work as well, and it felt like something had to give. When things weren't working out the way I wished them to, I began to believe that the friction, the distance, and the unravelling were the truest version of what was. When something closes, it is the ending somehow that shouts the loudest, obliterating all the music from the days gone by.



My husband unabashedly provided me with his perspective. A chapter of work, he said, cannot be defined by their last moments any more than a sunset defines the whole day. He asked me to consider how my workplace had supported me in my hours of need. He asked me to remember the beginnings; the hope; and also the middle, the time where effort felt worthwhile, where meaning quietly rooted itself into ordinary days. This conversation reminded me of days when showing up to work didn't feel like a question.

Those days were real. They mattered. They still do. I learnt that to remember only the ending is to flatten something that was once full and alive. It is tempting to assign blame, to categorise it as a failure, but there is a quiet strength in choosing otherwise. When you leave a job, you can choose to remember not just the exhaustion or the final tension, but also the skills you built, the people who supported you, and the version of yourself that learned to rise to challenges.

So when you find yourself standing at an ending, heart heavy, thoughts tangled, resist the urge to let it define everything. Look back; gather the good like scattered light and then, gently, let the ending be just that: a closing note in a much richer song.

Govt may back bid to bring...

Tumakuru, From Page 1

Parameshwara is also pushing for Tumakuru to get Bengaluru's second international airport. One of three locations identified for this falls between Kunigal and Nelamangala near Tumakuru. However, there are indications that the government may go for any of the other two locations along Kanakapura Road.

Meanwhile, the government is finalising a detailed project report (DPR) for the Madavara-Tumakuru metro line. The proposed 59-km metro line is estimated to cost Rs 20,896 crore.

Bangalore Central BJP MP P C Mohan mocked Parameshwara's proposal to declare Tumakuru as Bengaluru North.

"At this rate, Mangaluru may become 'Bengaluru Beachfront', Kalaburagi 'Bengaluru Far East', Kodagu 'Bengaluru Hill Station' and the entire state 'Greater Bengaluru Area'," Mohan said in a tweet.

Guarantee benefits worth Rs 1.40 lakh cr delivered: CM

Says people's welfare is objective of his govt

TUMAKURU, DHNS/PTI:

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah outlined the acheivements of the state government at 'Sadhana Samavesha,' a convention held to mark three years of Congress government in power.

Siddaramaiah, who inaugurated the convention, handed over title deeds to beneficiaries of government schemes, and launched several development works.

The chief minister said his government had implemented welfare guarantees worth more than Rs 1.40 lakh crore while also carrying out development works and systemic reforms. He said that the objective of his government is the welfare of the people.

Title deeds were issued to beneficiaries at the 'Sadhana Samavesha' in Tumakuru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

The CM said the Congress government had fulfilled promises made before the 2023 Assembly elections and contrasted it with the BJP government that ruled Karnataka from 2019 to 2023.

Targeting the BJP over its politics and governance, Siddaramaiah accused the party of "spreading hatred and weakening the economy".

Criticising fuel and cooking gas prices, Siddaramaiah said commercial LPG prices had sharply increased in recent months and alleged that the Centre's policies had worsened inflation. "Because of Modi, petrol-diesel and gas prices have touched the sky," he said.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that in a first-of-its-kind, the state government had delivered land records at the doorsteps of farmers.

Criminal waste of taxpayers' money: Vijayendra

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra (BYV) on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, terming its "Sadhana Samavesha" in Tumakuru a "criminal waste" of taxpayers' money and alleged the ruling party was using guarantee schemes as "electoral strategy".

"What is the purpose of the convention when the government has no achievements to showcase after three years in office. People are being forcibly brought in buses for the event, which is aimed more at helping Siddaramaiah retain his position than highlighting governance achievements. They have no money to pay salaries to government employees, but government machinery is being misused for conventions," charged Vijayendra, addressing a press meet in Bengaluru.

"The government is surviving by advertising the guarantees and using them as an election strategy," he said, alleging that funds under guarantee schemes were released during the recent bypolls to "influence" the voters.

The BJP chief also targeted the government over alleged corruption, saying Siddaramaiah should have resigned on moral grounds following the alleged Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation scam. He further referred to the MUDA land allotment controversy and said the chief minister returning the 14 sites to the MUDA was an admission of guilt.

Heavy winds blew away the rooftop sheets of a house at Bommayyanahatti near Molakalmuru of Chitradurga district. DH PHOTOS

Three cars were damaged when a tree fell on them due to gusty wind near Jogina Mane in Maski taluk in Raichur district.

Rains unabated in Central, Kalyana Karnataka districts

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds, lashed several parts of Kalyana Karnataka and central Karnataka on Tuesday, bringing respite from intense summer heat, flooding and extensive damage to crops and property.

A shepherd, identified as Mounesh Thimmayya (45), died after being struck by lightning on Sunday night at Aralahalli village of Surpur taluk in Yadgir district.

Bidar, Bhalki, Kamalnagar, Chitaguppa, Chincholi and Kalagi regions received heavy rain. In several places, tree branches fell on electric lines, disrupting the power supply. In Bidar district's Markal, Bawagi and Kamathan villages, strong winds blew away tin sheets from houses and damaged power infrastructure.

Chitradurga city witnessed severe waterlogging after overnight rain caused overflowing drains and rajakaluves in low-lying areas of Kelagote.

In Hiriyur taluk, strong winds damaged nearly 42 acres of banana and arecanut plantations. Banana crops ready for harvest were flattened in several villages, including Gannayakanahalli, Metikurke and Babburu.

IMD forecast

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast widespread rain across Karnataka for the next one week, with a yellow alert issued for Bengaluru and several districts on Wednesday.

Gusty winds reaching speeds of up to 50 kmph, thunderstorms and lightning are also likely in many parts of the state.

According to the forecast, several districts, including Chitradurga, Davangere, Shivamogga, Kodagu, Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru, Raichur, Yadgir and parts of north and south interior Karnataka, are expected to receive moderate to heavy pre-monsoon showers over the coming days.

Maha inks deals...

N-plants, From Page 1

Reliance Industries Ltd has proposed Bharat Small Reactors, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and nuclear power reactors at Purnagadh in Ratnagiri district. The project capacity ranges from two units of 220 MW each to six units of 1,200 MW each, with proposed investments ranging between Rs 8,000 crore and Rs 2 lakh crore depending on the final scale. The project is expected to create over one lakh employment opportunities.

NTPC Ltd has proposed a nuclear power plant at Devgad in Sindhudurg district with six units and a combined generation capacity ranging between 4,000 MW and 7,200 MW. The proposed investment is around Rs 1 lakh crore with employment potential estimated at around 5,000 jobs.

Collectively, the projects could add between 10,440 MW and 20,400 MW of nuclear generation capacity in Maharashtra, substantially strengthening India's clean-energy ambitions amid rising electricity demand and energy transition goals.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, in whose presence the MoUs were signed, said Maharashtra would play a key role in helping India emerge as an "energy-rich nation" while contributing towards the country's long-term net-zero carbon emission goals envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, the expansion of nuclear infrastructure in the Konkan region is also likely to revive environmental and livelihood concerns that have surrounded the Jaitapur project for over a decade.

Sections of local residents, farmers, fisherfolk and environmental groups have opposed the project citing apprehensions over seismic safety, marine ecology, land acquisition and the impact on the fragile coastal ecosystem. The protests had at times turned intense, making Jaitapur one of India's most debated nuclear energy projects.

Harihar seer case: Investigation officer transferred

DAVANGERE, DHNS: The police officer, investigating the allegations of child abuse against Panchamasali mutt seer Vachanananda Swami, has been transferred, on the former's request.

Superintendent of Police H T Shekhar has ordered the transfer of PSI Manjula D of Harihar Rural Police Station.

The transfer has been made for administrative reasons after considering the written request of PSI Manjula, the order said.

The SP said that Manjula had requested to be relieved of the responsibility of investigating the POCSO case.

The case has been handed over to Harihar Rural Police Inspector Suresh Sagari.

SC allows for euthanasia of 'dangerous dogs'

Stray dogs, From Page 1

It also ordered that states/UTs shall set up at least one Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre in one district.

The court said officials of the local bodies and institutions, who are duty-bound to implement the directions to secure places from dogs, shall be entitled to due protection for the performance of their duties.

The bench made it clear that no FIRs or criminal complaints should ordinarily be registered against them for performing their duties.

The judgment came on several petitions seeking modification of its November 7, 2025, order directing authorities to remove stray animals from institutional areas and roads.

The bench directed that the state would carry out the necessary steps to strengthen and implement the AWBI framework rules.

"They shall ensure the establishment of at least one fully functional ABC centre in each district. Having regard to population density of each state district, the authorities shall take necessary steps to expand ABC centres. All necessary measures are to be taken to implement the directions of this court and ensure that the same is implemented in letter and spirit and ensure implementation of AWB rules. Informed and reasoned decisions shall be taken to extend the direction of this court to other public places, having regard to ensure a safe environment for the public at large. Such decisions shall be implemented in a time-bound manner," the bench said.

The court further said that the state must ensure adequate availability of anti-rabies medicine.

"Stray dog bites continue to occur. Reports reveal that the problem has assumed deeply disturbing proportions. In the city of Sri Ganga Nagar in Rajasthan alone, 1,084 dog bites were reported in a month. Young children suffered grievous injuries, including mauling of their faces, according to reports. Tamil Nadu recorded 2 lakh-odd dog bites in the first four months of the year," the court said.

The bench further said it was apprised of reports that demonstrate dog bite incidents in airports, residential areas, urban centres, etc. The very occurrence of repeated dog bite incidents in the country's busiest airport (IGI) demonstrates grave inadequacy.

"A German traveller was bitten in Surat. Such incidents adversely affect public confidence in urban governance. The harm is not just statistical; it is unfathomable," it added.

Modi, Nordic leaders seek end to conflicts, forge green strategic ties

Modi, From Page 1

India and the Nordic countries agreed to partner for nurturing a sustainable blue economy, including by transforming the shipping industry towards low carbon, exchange of good practices and technology transfers. In the maritime and shipbuilding sectors, efforts for collaboration have been proposed between key stakeholders like shipowners, shipyards between India and Nordic countries for working in areas of mutual interests. They agreed to pursue cooperation to support sustainable ship recycling activities, especially through the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, according to a joint statement issued after the six leaders met in Oslo.

They also agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in digital infrastructure, digitalisation and artificial intelligence, climate action and energy security, fighting pollution, water, research and education, talent mobility, healthcare, space and geospatial sectors and defence.

"In this era of global tensions and conflicts, India and the Nordic countries will continue to work together to strengthen a rules-based global order. Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support efforts for an early end to conflict and for peace," Modi said, adding: "We agree that reform of multilateral institutions is both necessary and urgent. And, on terrorism, too, our stand is clear and united — no compromise, no double standards."

India joined Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland and Sweden in reaffirming commitment to upholding international law, shared values and obligations including democracy, freedom, human rights, gender equality, rule of law, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and international peace and security in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter.

The Nordic countries responded cautiously to the military offensive launched by Israel and the United States on Iran, urging restraint, diplomacy and respect for international law. Though all five are now NATO members, they have shown reluctance for direct military involvement, reportedly pushing back against the US efforts to widen participation in the Strait of Hormuz, arguing that it was beyond NATO's primary collective-defence role. The Nordic governments are also apparently apprehensive about the possibility of a prolonged conflict in West Asia shifting Western strategic attention and military resources away from the war launched by Russia against Ukraine.

The leaders emphasised the importance of a continued central role for the World Trade Organisation in the multilateral trading system and global trade governance. They underscored the importance of a fair, open, transparent, equitable, non-discriminatory, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system, with WTO at its core, according to the joint statement issued after the summit.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 13th May, 2026

S.O. 2480(E), Date: 13.05.2026 —In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), **maintenance, management and operation of NH69 in the stretch of land from Km. 368.400 to Km. 401.300 (Madhugiri to Chikkaballpura Section) in the district of CHIKKABALLAPURA in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.**

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Special land Acquisition officer and Competent Authority, National Highway-69, PWD Compund, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-56001.** In writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 368.400 to Km. 401.300 (Madhugiri to Chikkaballpura Section) of the NH-69 in the District of Chikkaballapura in the state of KARNATAKA

STATE: KARNATAKA		DISTRICT: CHIKKABALLAPURA			
Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit) (in Sq.Mtr.)	Area (in Hectare)
1	2	3	4	5	6
TALUK: CHIKKABALLAPURA					
VILLAGE: Shidlaghattabagilu					
1	Ass No. 547/545/3	Private	Built up	14.7	0.00147
2	Ass No. 547/545/4	Private	Built up	20	0.002
3	Ass No. 592/541	Private	Built up	30	0.003
4	Ass No. 593/542/A	Private	Built up	40	0.004
5	Ass No. 594/542	Private	Built up	30	0.003
6	Ass No. 595/543	Private	Built up	30	0.003
7	Ass No. 596/544	Government	Built up	50	0.005
8	Ass No. 597/1/545/1	Private	Built up	41.5	0.00415
9	Ass No. 597/2/545/2	Private	Built up	37.4	0.00374
10	Ass No. 597/545	Private	Built up	40	0.004
11	Ass No. 598/546	Private	Built up	30	0.003
12	Ass No. 599/1/547/1	Private	Built up	15	0.0015
13	Ass No.1194/1095/1	Private	Built up	200	0.02
14	Sy. No. 36	Private	Garden	127	0.0127
15	Sy. No. 42	Private	Dry	26	0.0026
16	Sy. No. 43	Private	Dry	354	0.0354
17	Sy. No. 44	Private	Dry	303	0.0303
18	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.1357)	Private	Dry	50	0.005
19	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.1413/45 + 1412/45)	Private	Dry	40	0.004
20	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.1427/45/4C)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
21	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.1448/148/1)	Private	Dry	40	0.004
22	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.2244/1228)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
23	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.3268)	Private	Dry	50	0.005
24	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.3356/45/2B)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
25	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.605/553)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
26	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.606/553/1)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
27	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.607/554)	Private	NAK	75	0.0075
28	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.609/556)	Private	Dry	40	0.004
29	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.611/557/1)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
30	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.612/558)	Private	NAK	100	0.01
31	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.614/560/A)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
32	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.615/560)	Private	NAK	75	0.0075
33	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.756/1/994)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
34	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.823/758/1A)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
35	Sy. No. 45 (Ass No.2244/1A/1228/1A)	Private	Dry	75	0.0075
36	Sy. No. 7	Private	Garden	1062	0.1062
37	Sy. No. 7 (Ass No.603/551)	Private	Built up	50	0.005
38	Sy. No. 7 (Ass No.604/552)	Private	Built up	150	0.015
39	Sy. No. 8/2A	Government	Built up	76	0.0076
VILLAGE: Anakanuru					
40	Sy No. 119	Government	Dry	76	0.0076
41	Sy No. 120	Common	Dry (Govt. /Private)	152	0.0152
42	Sy No. 121/1	Private	Dry	808	0.0808
43	Sy No. 121/4	Private	Dry	859	0.0859
44	Sy No. 124/5	Private	Dry	253	0.0253
45	Sy No. 214	Private	Dry	26	0.0026
46	Sy No. 215	Private	Dry (Govt./Private)	758	0.0758
47	Sy. No. 124/3	Private	Dry	253	0.0253
48	Sy. No. 125/2	Private	Garden	127	0.0127
49	Sy. No. 125/5	Private	Garden	1010	0.101
50	Sy. No. 126/1	Private	Dry	1818	0.1818
51	Sy. No. 126/3	Private	Dry	202	0.0202
52	Sy. No. 126/4	Private	Dry	632	0.0632
				Total	1.09206

[F. No. RW/NH-12037/10/2021-22/KNT/Zone-III-I/3A
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Trinamool's Jahangir exits Falta repoll race

Party says 'succumbed to pressure'

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate for Falta in West Bengal, Jahangir Khan, withdrew from the contest two days before repolling in the constituency, even as Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari led a BJP "road-show" in the area and termed the local people's response as "second independence for the Sanatanis".

Falta, a TMC stronghold since 2011, had gone to the polls along with other constituencies on April 29 in the second phase of voting.

The Election Commission, however, had declared the polling void in view of alleged irregularities in a large number of booths, and set May 21 as the repolling date.

"I am a son of the soil of Falta, and I want peace and development in the area," Khan told reporters on Tuesday. "The CM has announced a special package for the development of Falta. That is why I have decided to withdraw from the electoral contest."

The TMC, however, dissociated itself from Khan's decision to exit the contest in Falta, alleging that party workers in the constituency had faced BJP intimidation since the Assembly elections results were declared on May 4.

"Since the election results were declared on May 4, more than 100 of our party workers have been arrested only in Falta. Several party offices have been vandalised, shut down, and forcibly captured in broad daylight through intimidation, while the EC continues to turn a blind eye despite repeated complaints," the TMC alleged on X after Khan declared his decision to exit the contest.

"He chose to run away, as he was unlikely to get even polling agents for the majority of the booths in Falta," said Adhikari while campaigning for the BJP's Debangshu Panda.

JAHANGIR KHAN
TMC candidate

"The CM has announced a special package for the development of Falta, which is why I have decided to move away from the re-polling process in the constituency.

TMC to hit streets against 'bulldozer politics'

The TMC on Tuesday decided to launch demonstrations against what it termed the BJP government's "bulldozer culture" and the alleged forcible eviction of hawkers from railway land and station areas, reports PTI. The protests will be held on May 21, coinciding with the Falta repoll.

BJP shifts Kerala focus to OBC outreach with 13-point plan

Party to position itself as 'real Opposition' in Assembly

ANALYSIS

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Kerala Assembly is set to witness three BJP MLAs making their presence felt by targeting both the ruling Congress-led United Democratic Front and the Opposition CPM-led Left Democratic Front.

Keen to expand its footprint in the state, the saffron party has rolled out a 13-point political agenda that stresses OBC outreach and opposition to what it calls appeasement politics. It has also launched a campaign alleging that the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) dictated terms to the Congress, even influencing the choice of VD Satheesan as chief minister.

The BJP MLAs, including party state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar and former Union minister V Muraleedharan, are expected to voice the party's positions on a range of issues such as PM-SHRI, where both the Congress and CPM are on the same side.

The BJP seeks to project itself as the "real Opposition" in the Kerala Assembly, campaigning that the UDF and LDF are two sides of the same coin as members of the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

The BJP camps highlight that voters in Kerala have already started to view the BJP-NDA as a credible third alternative. They point to the election of three MLAs and the support of over 30 lakh voters despite "misleading campaigns" by both the UDF and LDF on issues such as the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

Fresh agenda

- THREE BJP MLAS TO TARGET BOTH UDF AND LDF
- As Christian outreach falters, party shifts focus to OBC, Dalit base
- Chandrasekhar, Muraleedharan to raise BJP's stand on PM-SHRI
- PARTY CALLS UDF-LDF TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

With its Christian outreach failing to deliver results, especially after back-to-back attacks on community members by Sangh Parivar outfits in BJP-ruled states, the party is now shifting focus to OBC and Dalit outreach.

The 13-point agenda unveiled at the party's core committee meeting says that religion-based reservation under the guise of OBC quotas should be scrapped. It says that reservation must be limited to OBCs, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Economically Weaker Sections.

Senior political analyst and social activist MN Karassery said that while the BJP's three MLAs may not be able to influence Assembly proceedings, they are likely to draw greater media attention.

He also held the Congress, CPM and IUML responsible for facilitating the BJP's growth in Kerala.

"If the BJP is growing in Kerala, the CPM, Congress and IUML are also responsible, as they provide the party opportunities to stoke communalism. Though the BJP may continue to expand its base, it will struggle to emerge as a ruling party in Kerala in the near future, given its actions against minority communities who make up 45% of the state's population," he said.

TORN DOWN

A demolition drive underway at Gareeb Nagar slum near Bandra East railway station conducted by Western Railway to remove more than 400 unauthorised structures following an order by Bombay High Court, in Mumbai, on Tuesday. Eligible residents identified in earlier surveys are being rehabilitated, while the cleared land will be used for the expansion of Bandra Terminus and railway infrastructure upgrades. PTI

ED gets 'godman' Ashok Kharat's custody

MUMBAI, DHNS: Almost two months after Ashok Kharat was detained by the Nashik police for various charges including sexual assault, extortion, and superstition, the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday secured custody of the controversial godman.

The main case against Kharat (67) is being handled by a Special Investigation Team of the Nashik Police. The ED has sought to probe Kharat's financial links and trail.

"The role of Kharat in the commission of the money laundering offences is also described in detail. After going through the application and particularly after hearing the special public prosecutor and the investigating officer, I think that the arrest of the proposed accused is necessary," the PMLA Court said in its order.

Later in the day, the ED formally arrested him.

Kharat is estimated to be worth between Rs 150 crore and Rs 200 crore. His bank balances include deposits totalling Rs 40.87 crore across multiple banks. Assets include 20 tolas of gold in his wife's name and 12 tolas in his own name.

Will not bow to any indirect pressure: TN on language policy

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday said it would not be "intimidated by any indirect pressure" from the Union government on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme.

It also asserted that there would be no compromise on the state's two-language formula of Tamil and English.

A Rajmohan

School Education Minister A Rajmohan said the Uniongovernment had not released Rs 2,200 crore to the state under the Samagra Shiksha (SS) scheme for not signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the PM-SHRI scheme.

The previous DMK government not just refused to sign the MoU but even allotted funds from its exchequer to compensate for the amount the Union government withheld under the SS scheme because the state refused to implement the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

"It is sad that funds meant for students have not been released for the past two years. We cannot accept this kind of behaviour. At the same time, we won't be intimidated by any indirect pressure," Rajmohan told reporters.

He added that there was absolutely no room for compromise on the two-language policy, which was one of the founding principles of the ruling TVK.

Rajmohan's statement assumes significance in the wake of the Union government sending a reminder to the state to join the PM-SHRI scheme.

Meanwhile, Health Minister K G Arunraj said Tamil Nadu would not accept NEET for medical admissions, and that the state would continue to oppose it as it discriminated against students from rural areas.

CPM to reconsider TVK support

In the event of ruling TVK accommodating the rebel faction of the AIADMK in the Cabinet, the CPM will reconsider its stand of support to the Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay-led government, CPM State Secretary P Shanmugam said on Tuesday.

Rift over fisheries, edu delays portfolio allocation

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Congress in Kerala managed to select ministers without major hiccups, but the formal allocation of portfolios has been delayed.

Differences over assigning the fisheries and education portfolios are learnt to be the main hurdle.

Even 24 hours after the VD Satheesan-led Cabinet was sworn in, the notification on portfolio allocation has not been issued.

However, several ministers have already begun working in departments corresponding to the portfolios expected to be allotted to them.

It is understood that the dispute is over allotting the fisheries portfolio to the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). A section within the Congress favours assigning it to a minister from the Latin Catholic community, considering the community's higher representation among fishermen.

Since the higher education portfolio — held by the IUML in the previous UDF ministry — is being taken over by the Congress, the IUML is said to be reluctant to part with the fisheries portfolio as well.

The chief minister will hold the finance and ports portfolios, while senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala will take charge of home and vigilance.

Meanwhile, the CM has constituted a committee led by former Cabinet Secretary KM Chandrasekhar to prepare a white paper on the state's finances.

BHU question on 'Brahmanical patriarchy' sparks row

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A question in the MA (History) examination at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the role of "Brahmanical patriarchy" in impeding women's progress in ancient India has triggered controversy, with academics and members of the Brahmin community objecting to the use of the term in the modern context.

The question, part of the 'Modern India and Women' paper, read, "What do you understand by the term Brahmanical patriarchy? Discuss how Brahmanical patriarchy impeded the progress of women in ancient India," according to reports.

Leaders of the Brahmin community sharply criticised the question, saying it portrayed the community in a bad light.

"Such questions portray the community negatively... BHU is a renowned centre of education in the country. Educational institutions are expected to unite society, not divide it," said Rachana Upadhyaya, a member of the Brahmin community and a resident of Varanasi.

"The term Brahmanical patriarchy has been used in academia, but it is not appropriate to apply it in modern times," said a historian.

The BHU administration, however, defended the question and termed the controversy "unfortunate" and without basis.

"The question is in accordance with the syllabus and should be seen in an academic context," it said in an official statement.

Congress city president Raghvendra Chaubey termed the controversy "unfortunate and concerning".

Akhilesh hints at alliance with Cong for 2027 UP polls

LUCKNOW, DHNS

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday indicated that his party's alliance with the Congress would continue in the next Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections scheduled in 2027.

However, speaking at an event organised by a Hindi newspaper here, Akhilesh, remained evasive on the question of who will be the face of the Opposition, saying that there were plenty of issues, including inflation and unemployment, which would be on their agenda to take on the BJP.

In response to a question about seat sharing with Congress, he said that, like the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when the two parties had contested together in the state, the probability of winning would decide the number of seats to be contested by the two parties.

"There will not be a question of seats in the alliance. Even during the Lok Sabha elections, I had said that the issue was not about seats, it was about victory. The same formula will work again. The question will not be of seats, the question will be of victory," he said.

Akhilesh Yadav

The Kannauj MP said that his party has vast experience in running alliances and always ensures that its allies benefit from the arrangement. "We have the experience of alliance... we have never ditched our allies... the alliance will continue," he remarked.

Reacting to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remarks that his government would not allow 'namaz' on the roads, the SP chief said that he didn't understand what problems it might cause. "There is a law on what is to be done on the road or not. There should not be political scoring. BJP is the biggest 'adharmi party' (immoral)," he said.

"Who is offering namaz on roads? If someone is, and there is a shortage of space... then what is the problem... They want us to get caught up somewhere else. We will not fall into their trap. We will first ask about NEET and other issues," Yadav said.

(*With PTI inputs*)

SC to decide validity of temple control laws

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has decided to examine pleas challenging the constitutional validity of laws governing the administration of Hindu temples and religious endowments in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Puducherry.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma on Monday recalled its earlier order of April 1, 2025, by allowing the review petitions. The court then directed the petitioners to approach the respective high courts instead of entertaining writ petitions.

The 2012 petitions had challenged provisions of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1959, the Andhra Pradesh Charitable and Hindu Religious Institutions and Endowments Act, 1987, the Pondicherry Hindu Religious Institutions Act, 1972, and the Telangana Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1987.

ENDOWMENTS ACTS

- SC recalls 2025 order, allows review petitions
- Petitioners directed to HCs; no writs before SC
- 2012 pleas challenge endowment Acts in 3 states, one UT
- Flag 'fundamental error' in SC's earlier observation
- 13 yrs of pendency cited as miscarriage of justice

The review petition contended, "The fundamental error apparent on the face of the record is the observation by this court that the scheme of the three laws 'may' be distinct. Hence, petitioners were left to exercise their liberty in accordance with Article 226 of the Constitution. This assumption is incorrect."

It further contended that the apex court's decision to send the petitioners back to the high courts after 13 years of pendency before the SC — and after all pleadings were complete — amounted to a manifest miscarriage of justice.

"The assumption that the Acts 'may' be distinct is mistaken. The three enactments follow a common scheme and uniform pattern because they have a common origin: the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, and the 1959 Act. These Acts have the unique distinction of being struck down twice by this court and at least thrice by the Madras High Court," the plea said.

The plea said each Act contained provisions for the appointment of executive officers, and the invasive powers of the commissioner under the three enactments are identical.

Church leaders' 'humanitarian' appeal to Kukis, Nagas in Manipur

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

With highway blockades and shutdown continuing in Manipur over a hostage standoff, leaders of several church organisations on Tuesday appealed to both the Nagas and the Kukis to release unconditionally and on humanitarian grounds those held captive.

A 10-member delegation of the Manipur Baptist Convention, the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India, the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation, and the Baptist World Alliance met leaders of the United Naga Council, the Naga People's Organisation, and other civil society organisations in the Naga-dominated Senapati district and discussed ways to defuse the tension.

"The church leaders strongly appealed for the unconditional release of hostages on both sides on humanitarian grounds. They said that this is a difficult moment for the affected families and appealed to all communities to exercise restraint, remain patient, and move forward in the spirit of forgiveness and peace," said a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday evening.

UNC Working Committee Member Secretary A C Thotso, said the appropriate decision-making bodies of the organisation would consider the matter.

Heatwave sweeps North India: Delhi swelters at 45°C

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Sweltering heat prevailed over vast areas of Northwest, Central, and West India on Tuesday, with Banda in Uttar Pradesh registering a maximum temperature of 48.2° Celsius (C) and the national capital crossing the 45°-C mark.

Little respite is expected this week, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which says "heatwave to severe heatwave conditions" are likely to prevail over Northwest and Central India.

Delhi experienced its hottest day this summer, with the maximum temperature at the Safdarjung base station soaring to 45.1° C.

Each of the five meteorological stations recorded a maximum temperature over 45° C, with one station (Delhi Ridge) registering 46.5° C.

Children bathe a goat to provide relief from the heat on a hot summer day in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

This was the first heatwave day of the month in Delhi, with dry winds and a searing sun pushing up temperatures.

The weather office has issued an orange alert for heatwave-to-severe heatwave conditions for the coming days.

On Monday, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 43.4° C — the second-highest this summer.

Aiming to help people on the road, the Delhi government announced the distribution of summer kits to construction workers and turning schools near big hospitals into community centres for patient attendants.

For three consecutive days, Banda — a dusty town in Bundelkhand — recorded India's highest temperature. It was 48.2° C on Tuesday, preceded by 47.6° C on Monday and 46.4° C on Sunday.

Banda tops the temperature chart because of its rocky terrain, lack of moisture, and local environmental degradation.

Uttar Pradesh reeled under intense heatwave conditions, with temperatures crossing the 40°-C mark in 22 of its 75 districts, said the IMD.

Among the hottest cities in UP were Jhansi and Agra, which recorded a maximum temperature of 46.5° C each, followed by Prayagraj at 45.8° C.

In Odisha, 21 places recorded temperatures of 40° C or above, Jharsuguda in the west being the hottest at 44.8° C.

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, and parts of Maharashtra, and Telangana were other states that recorded high maximum temperatures.

India's peak power demand surges to record 260.45 GW

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has recorded its highest-ever peak power demand of 260.45 GW on Tuesday as a severe heatwave sweeping across northern, central, and western regions sharply increased electricity consumption for cooling.

The Ministry of Power said the record demand, registered at 3.40 pm, was successfully met without any supply shortfall. It exceeded Monday's peak of 257.37 GW and the previous all-time high of 256.11 GW recorded on April 25.

In Delhi, the capital's power demand touched a new high of 7,776 MW at 3.30 PM on Tuesday. This is underscoring the impact of an early and intense summer.

The nationwide power consumption between April 1 and April 27 rose 8.9% year-on-year, driven by heightened cooling requirements and expanding industrial and commercial activity.

The government expressed confidence in meeting the projected summer peak demand of 270-271 GW. "The country's power availability remains sufficient, and robust mechanisms have been put in place to manage the anticipated surge," the ministry said.

The surge comes as large parts of the country reel under intense heatwave conditions, with temperatures crossing 45°C in several regions.

Rising use of air-conditioners, coolers, and refrigeration systems has significantly pushed up demand.

Minister bats for organic farming amid fertiliser crunch in market

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday acknowledged challenges in procuring fertilisers from the international market, urging states and farmers to increasingly adopt organic farming as an alternative.

Addressing the Eastern Zonal Agriculture Conference in Bhubaneswar, Chouhan said the Centre was making every possible effort to ensure fertiliser availability for farmers despite global supply constraints.

"I have no hesitation in admitting that fertilisers are not easily available in the international market. The Government of India is trying hard to procure fertilisers from wherever they are available for our farmers," he said.

He stressed the need to prevent the diversion and misuse of subsidised fertilisers during the ongoing supply crunch.

Rahul warns of economic shock

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the country was heading towards an "economic storm" while the PM, instead of taking action, was travelling abroad.

Rahul Gandhi

Rahul also said prices would soar, hurting common people, while the PM was "least concerned" about the situation.

"Prices will skyrocket. Farmers and labourers will suffer because of your (Modi's) policies over the past 12 years. It will not affect the big industrialists. The Prime Minister must act today," Rahul, who arrived in his Lok Sabha constituency of Raebareli on a two-day visit, said while addressing people after inaugurating a community hall.

"The price of petrol has been rising, inflation is rising. He (Modi) says Rahul does not know anything. We have been telling him to act, but he is least bothered and busy with foreign tours," the Congress leader said.

"The Prime Minister says don't buy gold and don't travel abroad, but after saying this, he goes abroad himself. It is a matter of concern. The country is heading for a big economic shock," he added.

US clears $428m support for India's Apaches & M777 howitzers

Bid to strengthen US-India strategic relationship

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the Indo-US trade negotiations, the US State Department has approved two military deals worth $428 million to support India's entire fleet of Apache helicopters and M777 lightweight howitzers.

The sustainment support for the M777 guns will cost $230 million and will be executed by BAE Systems, whereas the $198.2-million Apache support services will be carried out by Boeing.

India currently operates 28 Apache helicopters — 22 by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and six by the Indian Army.

The Army's Northern and Eastern Commands use 145 lightweight howitzers, purchased a decade ago.

The key component in the M777 contract would include ancillary items; spares; repair-and-return, training, and technical assistance; field service representatives; depot capability; and other related elements of logistics and programme support, the US State Department has said.

The possible sale of support services for the helicopters and the howitzers will take place under the Foreign Military Sale channels.

The US authority said the proposed sale would support the US' foreign-policy and national-security objectives of strengthening the US-India strategic relationship.

It is also expected to help improve the security of a major defence partner, which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions, it added.

The deals would not alter the basic military balance of the region, it said.

The proposed sales would improve India's capability to meet current and future threats, strengthen its homeland defence, and deter regional threats, said the US State Department, adding that India would have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

It also noted that there would be no adverse impact on US defence readiness as a result of this sale.

Over the past decade, India has gradually reduced its arms purchases from Russia and shifted towards Western nations—especially France, Israel, and the US—broadening the supplier base.

Arms upgrade

US clears two military support packages for India's Apache helicopters and M777 howitzers

BREAK-UP OF THE DEALS

●M777 howitzer sustainment: $230 million (BAE Systems)

●Apache helicopter support: $198.2 million (Boeing)

INDIA'S EXISTING FLEET

28 Apache helicopters: 22 with Indian Air Force, 6 with Indian Army

145 M777 lightweight howitzers which are deployed by Army commands

What the support package includes

●Spares, repairs, training, technical assistance, logistics support, field service representatives and depot capability

Strategic significance

●Deals highlight growing India-US defence ties and India's gradual shift from Russian arms imports towards the US, France and Israel

India in top 10 for combating sexual violence against kids

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has ranked in the top ten among 60 countries in the Out of the Shadows Index, which measures preparedness to combat sexual violence against children. The ranking, developed by Economist Impact, serves as a global benchmark of governments' efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents.

Australia was rated the safest country, scoring 83 out of 100, followed by the United Kingdom (78), Germany and France (74), Canada, Sweden and Italy (71), and Colombia (70). The United States (67) and India followed. Notably, no country scored higher than 83 out of 100.

India has ranked first among South-East Asian countries, and first in its lower-middle-income classification. With 436.6 million children, India accounts for 70.4% of South-East Asia's population under the age of 18. The only parameter where India lagged was governance and accountability.

According to the Index, 60 countries scored an average of 52.6 out of 100 for their efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents—a failing grade when it comes to keeping them safe.

The Index ranks 60 countries across six regions and aims to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents. These 60 countries are home to 83% of the world's children. Key assessment areas of the Index lie across four main criteria — governance and accountability, prevention, healing, and justice.

In the Americas and the Caribbean, Canada emerged on top, while in East Asia and the Pacific, Australia performed better in the rankings. In Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as West and Central Africa, Kenya topped the list. In Europe and Central Asia, the United Kingdom ranked highest, and in the Middle East and North Africa, Egypt outperformed the rest.

"Every child has the right to grow up safe. Yet, sexual violence remains an urgent threat to children's safety globally, with one in five girls and one in seven boys experiencing sexual violence before the age of 18. Despite the scale of the crisis, countries are falling dangerously short in protecting children," a release from the Index stated.

CHILD SAFETY

- Australia leads 60 countries listed; scores 83/100
- UK, Germany, France follow
- India fares well among South-East Asian nations; first in lower-middle-income group

Congress releases Rahul's press conference list to corner Modi

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI DHNS

The Congress on Tuesday released a list of 129 press meets addressed by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi since September 2013, seeking to corner Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not holding any press conference while in power after a Norwegian journalist raised questions over he not responding to the media during his visit the the European country.

Oslo-based journalist Helle Lyng's posts on X triggered questions over Modi not addressing the media during his Norway visit, prompting Rahul to first tweet on Monday night, "What happens to India's image when the world sees a compromised PM panic and run from a few questions?"

On Tuesday, Rahul referred to Norway's sovereign wealth fund dropping Adani Green Energy from its portfolio and asked, "Modi-ji, did Norway agree to your personal request to remove Adani from their pension fund black list?"

Following Rahul's post, Lyng on X sought a telephone interview with Rahul.

Meanwhile, the Congress released a list of Rahul's press meets from September 27, 2013 — the controversial one in which he rubbished the then UPA government's ordinance that sought to protect convicted lawmakers' seats in legislative bodies.

The list showed that Rahul held three press conferences in 2013, followed by one each between 2014 and 2017. He held 13 press conferences in 2018, 21 in 2019, 14 in 2020, and 16 in 2021.

In 2022, when he went on the Bharat Jodo Yatra, he held 11 press conferences, including nine during the yatra, and 20—including five during yatra—in 2023.

In 2024, Rahul addressed 20 press conferences, followed by seven in 2025.

BJP IT Cell head Amit Malviya sought to rebut Lyng and claimed that the Norwegian PM also did not take any questions at the joint press briefing.

"But the lunatic Congress ecosystem led by Rahul Gandhi is crowing over a delinquent journalist's incoherent rant. One wonders if, like the journalist in question, the Congress leadership is also on the take of those who do not want to see a strong and powerful India," he said.

Lyng responded to Malviya: "He (Norwegian PM) did, but only to the Norwegian press at first. He met the Indian press later that day."

Earlier, she posted a video of herself asking Modi to respond to questions after the joint briefing.

The Indian Embassy in Norway later invited her to a press briefing by the MEA in a hotel in Oslo, which she attended.

SC asks if NGOs, activists accept liability for dog attacks

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked whether animal welfare organisations, NGOs and individuals, who claim to care for or exercise control over stray dogs in a given locality, would be willing to accept tortious liability in respect of any injury, harm or damage caused by the canines to members of the public.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and N V Anjaria said while considerable emphasis has been placed on the protection, feeding and continued presence of community dogs in public and institutional spaces, a pertinent question arises as to whether such individuals, organisations and associations would be willing to assume the corresponding legal responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

"The issue assumes significance inasmuch as the assertion of a right to protect or maintain stray dogs in public spaces cannot be divorced from the obligation to ensure that such actions do not result in harm to others," the bench said in its 131-page order.

It noted that the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR), University of Law, Hyderabad, has argued that it has institutionalised humane treatment of stray dogs on its campus by creating the Animal Law Centre and all stakeholders, including the students and the staff, are being sensitised towards the dogs present on the campus.

The bench said in case the Animal Law Centre wishes to carry out the work in terms of the Capture-Sterilise-Vaccinate-Release (CSVR) model inside the campus of the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, such activity can be allowed on an experimental basis, subject to the pre-condition that the centre shall furnish an undertaking to the vice-chancellor that, in the event of any incident of stray-dog bite on the campus, it shall be liable to face tortious liability for the injury caused to the individuals concerned.

The court said it is of the considered opinion that any framework concerning the management and protection of stray dogs must necessarily be accompanied by clearly-defined principles of accountability.

"Insofar as the animal welfare groups or student-led bodies in educational institutions are concerned, it shall be mandatory for any such group or body operating within such campuses to expressly undertake such liability by filing an affidavit to this effect with the head of the institution concerned, failing which no such activity of maintaining or feeding stray dogs shall be permitted within the institutional premises," it ruled.

People walk past a group of street dogs in New Delhi. PTI FILE

Activists plan hunger strike

Animal rights activists are planning a hunger strike protest at Delhi's Ramlila Ground against the recent Supreme Court observations on stray dogs, with campaigners also preparing to approach various high courts over the issue, reports PTI.

Right to protest is fundamental, but can't create disruption: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that while the right to peaceful and lawful protest was fundamental, it must not spill over into threats or disruptions of public order.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant made the observation while responding to concerns that criminal cases were being filed against protesting young individuals.

The court, however, refused to entertain a plea seeking direction to the Centre to make a time-bound decision on the Maharashtra government's proposal on the Navi Mumbai International Airport's renaming.

The court observed that everyone had the right to protest within the bounds of the law, but they must not take to the streets in a manner that endangered law and order or inconvenienced the masses.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by the NGO Prakashjyot Samajik Sanstha challenging a Bombay HC order. The Maharashtra government had proposed to rename the Navi Mumbai International Airport as "Lokneta D B Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport".

The petitioner sought a time-bound decision from the Central government on the state government's proposal.

"This will amount to indulging in policy-making," the bench told the counsel appearing for the petitioner organisation.

The court said it was not inclined to entertain the plea challenging the November 2025 Bombay HC order that had dismissed the petition. The counsel contended that the government might name the airport as it deemed fit, but the petitioner only sought that the decision be taken in a time-bound manner.

The bench asked, "Why should it pass the order? Tomorrow they may say we do not want to name... Please don't ask for an order that becomes embarrassing for us as well."

NTA inducts senior officers, advertises key positions

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday announced a series of structural measures aimed at strengthening its leadership and institutional framework, appointing four senior Government of India officers to the agency while simultaneously advertising three specialist leadership positions.

Of the four officers inducted into the NTA, two are at the joint secretary level and will serve as additional director generals, in line with the recommendations of high-level expert committee headed by K Radhakrishnan. The other two officers have been appointed at director level. The inductions, NTA said, will enhance its senior administrative bandwidth.

The agency has also advertised three specialist contractual positions, including a Chief Technology Officer to oversee the digital examination ecosystem and AI-driven integrity mechanisms, a Chief Finance Officer to manage examination-wise accounting and audit-ready financial governance, and a general manager (Human Resources).

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
Autonomous Institute. Established By Govt. of Karnataka
(A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
Recognised Under Societies Registration Act. Reg. No. 132/85-86
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bangalore-560029.
e-mail: ihealthchild@yahoo.in Website: igich.karnataka.gov.in

IFT No.: DME/2025-26/IND1850/CALL-2 Date: 19.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDERS
(Through GoK e-Portal Platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Tenders are invited through GoK e-procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by the Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bangalore-560029 from eligible tenderers for the following mentioned hereunder :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Items	Qty	E.M.D. in Rupees	Tender Processing Charges
1	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 13KL Liquid Medical Oxygen Tank on turnkey basis, refilling of Liquid Medical Oxygen (per cu mtr) **Existing Hospital.** A) Medical Oxygen "A" Type Cylinder B) Medical Oxygen "B" Type Cylinder C) Medical Oxygen Jumbo cylinder (Bulk) D) Medical Nitrous Oxide "A" Type Cylinder E) Medical Nitrogen Jumbo Cylinder F) Nitrous Oxide (Bulk) Cylinders to be quoted for rate contract	As per e-procurement website	Each Rs. 1,00,000/-	As per e-procurement website
2	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 13KL Liquid Medical Oxygen Tank on turnkey basis, refilling of Liquid Medical Oxygen (per cu mtr) **New Hospital.** A) Medical Oxygen "A" Type Cylinder B) Medical Oxygen "B" Type Cylinder C) Medical Oxygen Jumbo cylinder (Bulk) D) Medical Nitrous Oxide "A" Type Cylinder E) Medical Nitrogen Jumbo Cylinder F) Nitrous Oxide (Bulk) Cylinders to be quoted for rate contract	As per e-procurement website	Each Rs. 1,00,000/-	As per e-procurement website

1) Date of Commencement of download of Tender Document from e-procurement website-**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**: **20.05.2026**. **2)** Pre Bid Meeting: **27.05.2026** at **12:00 Noon**. **3)** Last Date and Time for uploading online queries in e-procureent portal (online Queries Only): **29.05.2026 till 04:00 PM**. **4)** Last Date and time for uploading of e-tender in e-procurement Portal: **04.06.2026 till 04:00 PM**. **5)** EMD Reconciliation and Opening Technical Bids: **05.06.2026 at 04:00 PM**. For Further detail visit GOK e-procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contract e-procurement helpdesk on **080-25501216, 080-25501227.**

Sd/- **Director**
Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/731/SA/2026-27

KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
Dr. D. C. Pavate Memorial Fellowships in Cambridge, 2027-28
University of Cambridge

The Dr. D. C. Pavate Foundation in collaboration with Karnatak University, Dharwad and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge offer three visiting fellowships annually for a period of four months to be held at the Centre of International Studies / Department of Politics and International Studies, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics / Department of Material Sciences and Metallurgy / Department of Chemistry *I* Department of Zoology, and the Department of English, University of Cambridge.

Candidates below the age of 40 years as on 1st May 2027, who have secured a Ph.D., or a first class Masters Degree or its equivalent are eligible to apply for the following fellowships:

(a) One fellowship at the Centre of International Studies *I* Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge, selected on all India basis: The fellowship will be effective from 1st January 2028. Candidates with a good academic record in the areas of History, Political Science or International Relations, International Economics, International Law or Military Affairs will be considered.

(b) One fellowship at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics *I* Department of Material Sciences and Metallurgy / Department of Chemistry *I* Department of Zoology, selected from among Karnataka Candidates: This fellowship will be effective from 1st May 2027. Candidates from Karnataka with a good academic record in the relevant subjects will be considered. The selection and award is subject to the Department concerned identifying a host research group accepting the successful candidate.

(c) One fellowship at the Department of English, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, selected from among Karnataka Candidates: This fellowship will be effective from 1st September 2027. Candidates from Karnataka with good academic record and interest in Literature and Cultural History will be considered.

In case of fellowship at Department of English, University of Cambridge, candidates must show evidence of ability to produce scholarship in English at an advanced level, equivalent to what is expected for a doctoral thesis or journal publications

Karnataka Candidate: (i) Educated for a minimum of 3 years continuously at an educational institution located in Karnataka, or (ii) employed in Karnataka for a minimum of 3 years continuously.

The fellowships will cover economy class return air fare, stipend of 4500 pounds sterling and the appropriate academic charges. For more information and application form visit us **www.pavatefoundation.org/home/fellowship_application.** Duly filled application form along with the proposed research work, CV and best three research publications relating to the proposed area of interest should reach by August 10, 2026.

The filled application form along with related documents may be submitted online or directly to Dr. B. H. Nagoor, Coordinator, Dr. D. C. Pavate Foundation, Vidya Soudha Building, First Floor Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka -580003. **(Mobile-9448112166 E-mail: nagoor_bh@yahoo.co.in) .** For more details kindly visit **http://www.pavatefoundation.org/**

DIPR/DWD/207/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY Sd/- **REGISTRAR**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ
ಕನೀನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ3 ಬೀಳಗಿ
KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office :Executive Engineer,KNNL GLBC Dn No.3, Bilagi
Phone & Fax No: 08425-275228 e-mail: eeknnlglbcdn.3bilagi@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಘಎದಂಕಾ:ವಿ3:ಡಿಬಿ:ಟಿಎನ್‌ಡಿ:2026–27/207 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.05.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೆ:ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home) 4701** ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

(1) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **KNNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT3450/CALL-2, KNNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT3449/CALL-2** (2) ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.33.88 ಲಕ್ಷ**ಗಳ ರಿಂದ **ರೂ.160.99 ಲಕ್ಷ**ಗಳು (3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.80,000/–** ರಿಂದ **ರೂ.2,85,000/– (4)** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ–03 ಬೀಳಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **22.05.2026 ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ/ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **25.05.2026 ರ 17.00** ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ **(6)** ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **29.05.2026 ರ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆ**ಯ ವರೆಗೆ (7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು (ಲಕೋಟೆ–1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: **01.06.2026 ರ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ**ಯ ನಂತರ **(8)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (ಲಕೋಟೆ–2) ಪೂರ್ವಾಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು (ಲಕೋಟೆ–2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ನಿಯಮ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–(ರಾಜಶೇಖರ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ3 ಬೀಳಗಿ
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/53/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿ/2026–27

SC calls Rs 3k-cr nuclear liability cap a 'sensitive legislative policy issue'

Raises concern over adequacy of compensation mechanisms in the event of nuclear mishap

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday described the capping of liability for nuclear accidents as a "very sensitive legislative policy issue" while hearing a petition challenging key provisions of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi observed that the matter involves broader questions of economic policy, even as it expressed concern over the adequacy of compensation mechanisms in the event of a nuclear mishap.

"Our concern is that if an unfortunate event or any accident takes place and any person suffers an injury or damage, do we have a robust compensatory mechanism for that purpose," the bench remarked.

The SC observed that technology has to come from outside and wondered that if the liability is not capped, then who will come to operate here

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioners, contended that the Act caps the total liability at an "absurdly low" Rs 3,000 crore, far below the scale of damage seen in past nuclear disasters. He cited the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi accident in Japan, arguing that damages from a major nuclear incident in India could run into hundreds of times that amount.

Bhushan argued that while the government is free to pursue its policy objectives, it cannot do so at the cost of citizens' rights and safety.

He pointed out that the SHANTI Act, which replaced the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, allows private companies and foreign suppliers to operate nuclear plants but limits their liability.

The petitioners have also alleged that the new law dilutes the operator's right of recourse against suppliers, potentially encouraging compromises on safety standards.

The bench, however, noted that nuclear technology often comes from foreign sources and questioned whether operators would participate without a capped liability regime.

It added that state would step in to provide compensation in case of an accident and emphasised that liability cap doesn't restrict powers of courts to award adequate compensation to victims.

Industry wants to build nuclear reactors in India: US delegate

NEW DELHI, PTI: The recent enactment of the SHANTI Act, 2025, has opened up numerous opportunities for the commercial nuclear industry to work with India, one of the top US delegates currently visiting the country has said.

A high-level senior US delegation is in India this week as part of the 'US Executive Nuclear Mission to India', jointly led by Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), a lobby group for the American commercial nuclear industry, and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). It also includes companies' representatives from across the nuclear energy value chain.

Speaking to PTI, Maria Korsnick, president and CEO of the NEI said the industry wants to work with the Indian commercial nuclear sector and the government to build nuclear reactors in the country.

"The SHANTI Act has given us an opening to create a relationship between the US industry and the Indian industry," Korsnick said.

"The innovation in commercial nuclear power in the United States is absolutely amazing. For many years, we have had lightwater technology. Now, we also have advanced reactors, high-temperature gas reactors and molten salt reactors," Korsnick said.

Guj Police bust terror-linked cryptocurrency ring; 9 held

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat Police have busted an international cryptocurrency racket worth Rs 225 crore, allegedly linked to terror-funding, the dark web, and narcotics trafficking.

The police have arrested nine individuals whose digital wallets were being used for fund transfers to "terrorist organisations such as Hamas and the Houthis".

They have been identified as Mohsin Molani, Ejaz Aslamkhan Pathan, Mohammed Abdulkaderbhai Siddi, Naved Ayubkhan Pathan, Faizahmed Nassaruddin Chisti, Zeeshan Siraj Motiwala, Salman Habibkhan Pathan, Gulam Sadiq Ibadullah Asnsari, all residents of Ahmedabad, and Lovepreet Darshansinh Madharu of Haryana.

The technical unit of Cyber Centre of Excellence (CCE), Gandhinagar, on Tuesday claimed to have busted the "sophisticated network" by "analysing cryptocurrency wallets and transactions".

Their investigation was said to have revealed that the crime syndicate was operating on a dark website for narcotics distribution, money laundering, and financing designated international terrorist organisations.

The transaction of a digital wallet led the police team to Mohsin Sadiq Molani, a resident of Sarkhej in Ahmedabad.

A deep technical analysis of his wallet revealed involvement of 9 other suspicious cryptocurrency users who were spread across country.

The police have claimed that the syndicate was using untraceable and anonymous cryptocurrencies such as Monero, which are apparently globally preferred for terror-financing and dark-web activities.

'Grounds not justified': Delhi court denies interim bail to Umar Khalid

Umar Khalid

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid, accused in the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, saying the grounds for seeking the relief are unreasonable.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai was hearing Khalid's application seeking 15 days' interim bail to attend the 40-day post-death ritual (Chehlum) of his uncle and take care of his mother, who has to undergo a surgery.

In his order, the judge said, "The court is of the view that attending the Chehlum ceremony of his uncle is not that necessary. Things would have been different if the ceremony was of a person who was in immediate relation with the applicant." The court also said Khalid could have sought the relief immediately after his uncle's death if the relationship was so close.

"If the relationship was so immediate and thick, the applicant would have asked for the release at the time of the death of his uncle only and not now after such a long time. Therefore, the court does not find this reason to be just," the judge said.

Opposing Khalid's bail plea, Special Public Prosecutor Anirudh Mishra told the court that the accused has five sisters and a father who can help his mother pre and post surgery.

"The surgery is not a serious one and is just a minor surgery, in which only local anaesthesia is given, and as such, again, there is no need for the accused to attend to his mother," Mishra said.

Taking note of the prosecution's submissions, the court said Khalid himself had stated that he has five sisters and that his father is also available to take care of his mother.

"Further, as said by the prosecution, the surgery is very simple, that is, just for the removal of lumps, and there seems to be no actual requirement of help from the side of the applicant," the court said.

Khalid is an accused in the conspiracy case linked to the February 2020 communal riots in northeast Delhi.

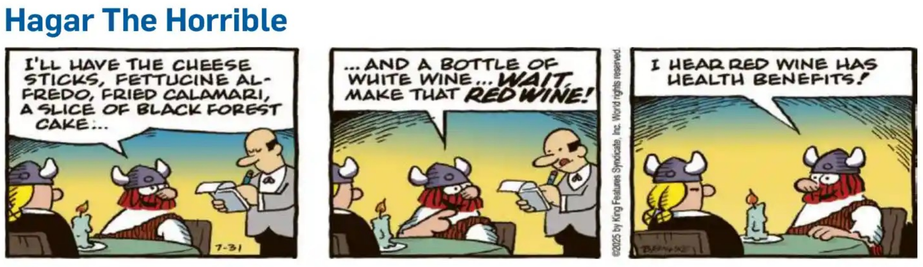
MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS OLYMPIC CURLING?
IT IS KINDA WEIRD THE WAY THEY SWEEP THE ICE SO QUICKLY WITH THOSE MINI-BROOMS!
SHOULD THAT EVEN BE A SPORT? IT LOOKS TOO MUCH LIKE DOING CHORES!
YEAH, LIKE CLEANING THE GARAGE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLYMPICS?
IT LOOKED TOO MUCH LIKE WORK
WE SWITCHED TO WRESTLING
SMACKDOWN!

Hagar The Horrible


I'LL HAVE THE CHEESE STICKS, FETTUCINE ALFREDO, FRIED CALAMARI, A SLICE OF BLACK FOREST CAKE...
...AND A BOTTLE OF WHITE WINE... WAIT, MAKE THAT RED WINE!
I HEAR RED WINE HAS HEALTH BENEFITS!

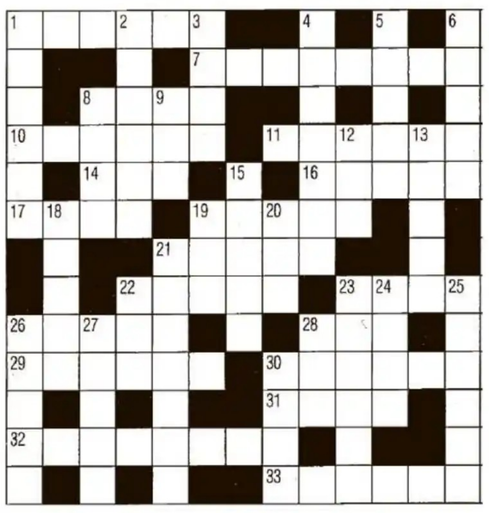
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

"LITTLE GEORGE WAS WAITING FOR SANTA TO COME"
"SUDDENLY HE HEARD THE SOUND OF SOMEONE WALKING ON THE ROOF! IT WAS A MAN IN A YELLOW SLICKER AND BIG RUBBER BOOTS!"
"I SAW HIM!' SHOUTED LITTLE GEORGE... 'I SAW SANTA AND HIS RAIN GEAR'"
DON'T SQUIRM, MA'AM, THERE'S MORE TO COME!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12420



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Murphy's coat? (6)
7 Epidemic of being off work for a rest? (8)
8 Said to be the same as a jetty (4)
10 Shown to wander in the outskirts of Preston (6)
11 The most recent to lose heart at last? (6)
14 Over poetic? (3)
16 Weapon that makes Jack a junior NCO (5)
17 Tears back showing some spirit (4)
19 Foreigner of Norse origin? (5)
21 Wherein the women rush about a lot? (5)
22 She's in the pool (5)
23 Where a bighead can get a new hat (4)
26 Kept being sad about a great day (5)
28 Title of Osiris? (3)
29 Did he mess up the replay? (6)
30 Chap informally cooking tubers (6)
31 Depend on us returning, surely (4)
32 Anything helpful you can have recourse to (8)
33 Eccentric exit? (3,3)

DOWN
1 Possibly ìlongî garment (6)
2 Men of steel could put an edge on them (6)
3 Like the rent book? (4)
4 In the Bible, he provided sailors with an extract of calomel (7)
5 A he-man's girl (5)
6 Fishy edition of Keats (5)
8 Stern situation unaffected by a rising (4)
9 Always heartily cheered? (3)
12 Black salt? (3)
13 Have a look round, there's a good chap (5)
15 Forward a letter to the Fair Maid's place (5)
18 One old port that will never improve! (5)
19 Put personal pressure on the bench (3)
20 Having a bit of money, he was executed (3)
21 Not exactly hideous place of concealment (7)
22 A minor, for instance (3)
23 Where, by touring the land, one may have shot to success (6)
24 Aesthetic tray design (4)
25 A recluse living in this age (6)
26 Recreation, I see, possibly from the tropics (5)
27 Waltz across the Channel? (5)
28 Prosecute for misuse? (3)
30 Drink helps make job rewarding (4)

ACROSS
1 Overly eager (4,2)
7 Apron (8)
8 Stop (4)
10 Expatriates (6)
11 Jungle expedition (6)
14 Be seated (3)
16 Planet (5)
17 Otherwise (4)
19 Valuable gemstone (5)
21 Street urchin (5)
22 A female fox (5)
23 Superlative of good (4)
26 Shout applause (5)
28 Glass container (3)
29 Hire charge (6)
30 Car shed (6)
31 Recedes (4)
32 Without socks or shoes (8)
33 Hit (6)

DOWN
1 European country (6)
2 Goalkeeper (6)
3 Chooses (4)
4 Towed vehicle (7)
5 Book of Islam (5)
6 Boy's name (5)
8 Snake sound (4)
9 Permit (3)
12 Tasselled cap (3)
13 Governs (5)
15 Adult females (5)
18 Flexible, supple (5)
19 Levy (3)
20 Seize and hold fast (3)
21 Tall mammal (7)
22 Animal doctor (3)
23 Men's hairdresser (6)
24 Epochs (4)
25 Threefold (6)
26 Cots (5)
27 Admission (5)
28 Boxer's short punch (3)
30 Obtains (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12419

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, A-bash 6, M-Otto 9, William 10, Fru-it 11, Reams 12, Latin 13, Pinched 15, Ho.-b 17, Leah 18, Sesame 19, Se-ats 20, Create 22, Diva (avid) 24, K-I'd 25, Puritan 26, Snout 27, Cupid 28, Windy 29, Tutored 30, Sleep 31, Belly.
DOWN: 2, Birdie 3, SW-itch 4, Hit 5, Plead 6, Marines 7, OM-E-N 8, Tom-tom 12, Levee 13, Pluck 14, Nam-Ed 15, Habit 16, B-e.g.-an 18, Strut 19, Stand up 21, Rit-U-al 22, Divide 23, V.-and-A.-L 25, Put on 26, Site 28, We-b.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Stiff 6, Scrum 9, Replica 10, Broad 11, Avoid 12, Trite 13, Macabre 15, Met 17, Iris 18, Decide 19, Elder 20, Greasy 22, Dome 24, Ear 25, Referee 26, Lager 27, Steep 28, Birth 29, Serious 30, Debts 31, Sever.
DOWN: 2, Tartar 3, Fracas 4, Fed 5, Flare 6, Scatter 7, Cave 8, United 12, Truly 13, Midge 14, Cider 15, Minor 16, Tepee 18, Deter 19, Escapes 21, Rattle 22, Demise 23, Mettle 25, Relic 26, Lest 28, Bus.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6910 ◆

					9		1	4
	4		6		5		7	3
			4			8		
8	9							
	7	1			3	9	5	
							3	6
		7			2			
4	5		3		6		9	
	6		1					

hard

SOLUTION TO 6909

2	4	8	6	9	7	1	5	3
9	5	1	3	2	8	4	6	7
6	7	3	4	5	1	9	8	2
7	8	9	2	1	5	6	3	4
4	3	2	8	7	6	5	9	1
1	6	5	9	3	4	2	7	8
5	9	4	1	8	3	7	2	6
8	2	6	7	4	9	3	1	5
3	1	7	5	6	2	8	4	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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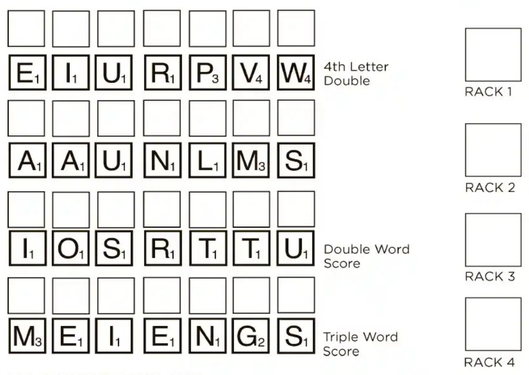
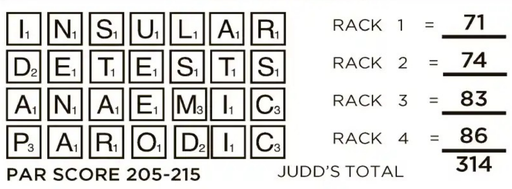

E1 I1 U1 R1 P3 V4 W4
4th Letter Double
A1 A1 U1 N1 L1 M3 S1
I1 O1 S1 R1 T1 T1 U1
Double Word Score
M3 E1 I1 E1 N1 G2 S1
Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



RACK 1 = 71
RACK 2 = 74
RACK 3 = 83
RACK 4 = 86
JUDD'S TOTAL 314

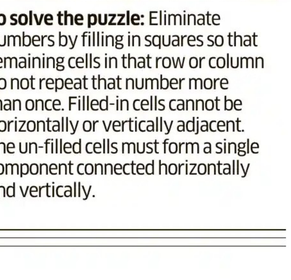
PAR SCORE 205-215

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOLFS
FGEAF
NEDLAT
VACRIA


Do you like our chances of reeling them in today?
It's a beautiful day. I predict we're going to catch a lot of fish.
11/7
THE METEOROLOGIST BOUGHT A NEW FISHING POLE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABATE TREND MODEST STRESS
Answer: With phones that have GPS maps, even people from out of town can be — STREET SMART

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HITORI-3364

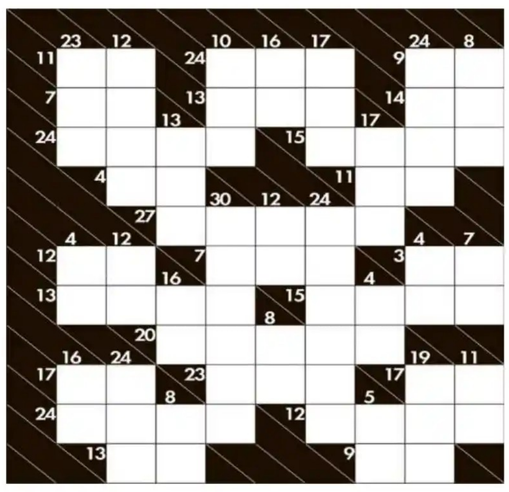
6	4	1	8	3	2	5	4
2	2	8	3	1	5	6	3
5	2	6	7	8	2	4	2
3	8	2	6	7	2	7	1
2	3	4	5	8	6	7	2
2	7	7	2	6	1	8	2
8	6	1	2	2	3	2	7
1	1	8	4	2	7	3	5

SOLUTION TO 3363

8	5	1	7	■	2	6	■
■	7	■	3	5	6	■	1
6	4	2	■	3	■	7	5
7	6	3	2	■	5	8	4
3	■	7	5	4	1	■	2
■	8	■	1	6	■	2	7
2	3	5	4	7	8	■	6
4	■	6	■	1	7	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

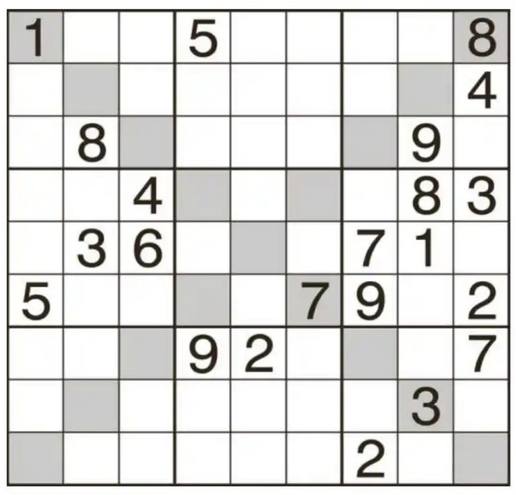
KAKURO- 3364



SOLUTION TO 3363

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3921



SOLUTION TO 3920

3	7	4	6	1	5	2	8	9
2	6	1	8	9	4	5	3	7
8	5	9	7	2	3	1	4	6
4	2	7	5	3	6	8	9	1
1	8	3	4	7	9	6	5	2
6	9	5	2	8	1	3	7	4
7	3	8	9	6	2	4	1	5
9	4	6	1	5	8	7	2	3
5	1	2	3	4	7	9	6	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Congo reports sharp rise in Ebola cases

KINSHASA, AP/PTI: The World Health Organisation director-general on Tuesday expressed concern over the "scale and speed" of an outbreak of a rare Ebola variant in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where authorities have reported at least 131 suspected deaths and more than 500 suspected cases.

The virus spread undetected for weeks after the first known death because authorities initially tested for a more common Ebola strain and received negative results, according to health experts and aid workers. The Bundibugyo strain, a rare variant of Ebola, currently has no approved medicines or vaccines.

Congo's Health Minister Samuel Roger Kamba said investigations were underway to determine whether the 131 deaths and 513 suspected cases were directly linked to the disease.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he was "deeply concerned about the scale and speed of the epidemic", adding that the agency's emergency committee would meet later on Tuesday.

Tedros highlighted the emergence of cases in urban areas, the deaths of healthcare workers and large-scale population movements as major concerns.

US may hit Iran again: Trump

Iran warns US against making fresh strikes

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN, REUTERS/AFP

US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the United States may need to strike Iran again and that he was only an hour away from approving an attack before postponing it.

"I was an hour away from making the decision to go today," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Trump said Iran's leaders were "begging" to make a deal, but warned that a new US attack could take place within days if an agreement was not reached. "Well, I mean, I'm saying two or three days, maybe Friday, Saturday, Sunday, something, maybe early next week, a limited period of time, because we can't let them have a new nuclear weapon," he said.

Meanwhile, Iran's army warned on Tuesday that it would "open new fronts" against the United States if Washington resumed attacks, after Trump said he had delayed a planned offensive in the hope of securing a deal.

The warning came as a shaky ceasefire remained in place since April 8 and after Washington and Tehran exchanged proposals through intermediaries in an effort to end the West Asia war that began with US strikes on February 28.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said Gulf leaders had asked him "to hold off on our planned military attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was scheduled for tomorrow, as serious negotiations are now taking place". However, Trump added that he had instructed the US military to be "prepared to go forward with a full, large-scale assault on Iran, at a moment's notice, if an acceptable deal is not reached". Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi wrote on X that Trump's comments meant the US leader was "calling a 'threat' a 'chance for peace'".

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran's army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia warned that the Islamic republic would "open new fronts against" the United States if it resumed attacks. He added that Iran's military had used the ceasefire as an opportunity "to strengthen its combat capabilities".

Following the threat, the United Arab Emirates said a drone attack on its Barakah nuclear power plant on Sunday had originated from Iraqi territory, where Iran-backed groups have been accused of launching attacks on Gulf nations during the West Asia conflict.

"As part of the ongoing investigation into the blatant attack on the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant on May 17, 2026, technical tracking and monitoring confirmed that the three drones all originated from Iraqi territory," the Emirati defence ministry said.

People ride motorcycles near a billboard with an image of the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in Tehran, on Tuesday. REUTERS

A lot of progress made in talks, says Vance

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: US Vice President JD Vance said on Tuesday that the United States and Iran had made significant progress in their talks and that neither side wanted to see a resumption of the military campaign.

"We think that we've made a lot of progress. We think the Iranians want to make a deal," Vance told reporters during a White House briefing.

Vance said he had just spoken to President Donald Trump, who stressed that the core issue for the US was ensuring that Iran could never obtain a nuclear weapon.

"If that happens, countries around the Gulf would then want their own weapons, and then other countries across the world would as well," he said.

"We want to keep the number of countries that have nuclear weapons small, and that's why Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," Vance added.

The United States wants Iran to work with Washington on a process that would ensure Tehran could not rebuild its nuclear weapons capacity in the coming years.

"That's what we're trying to accomplish in negotiations," he said.

Putin to attend BRICS summit in New Delhi

MOSCOW, PTI: Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the BRICS Summit 2026 in New Delhi on September 12 and 13, according to a Kremlin aide.

India, as the current chair of BRICS, will host the annual summit of the grouping in September. "President Putin will take part in the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12 and 13," Kremlin aide for international affairs Yury Ushakov said. Ushakov also said that a bilateral meeting between Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping is planned on the sidelines of the summit.

Putin last visited India in December 2025 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. Earlier this month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attended a two-day conclave of BRICS member states in New Delhi.

Originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, BRICS expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

Russia holds massive drills of nuclear forces

Risks of direct Russia-Nato clash increasing, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW, AP/PTI

Russia on Tuesday began massive nuclear force manoeuvres featuring practice launches of nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles, amid a surge in Ukrainian drone strikes.

The three-day exercise involves 64,000 troops, more than 200 missile launchers, over 140 aircraft, 73 surface warships and 13 submarines, including eight armed with nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

The manoeuvres will focus on the "preparation and use of nuclear forces under the threat of aggression", the ministry added. The drills will also include coordination exercises with Belarus, Russia's close ally and neighbour, which hosts Russian nuclear weapons. Russian arsenals in Belarus include the latest intermediate-range nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system.

The exercises come as Ukraine has intensified drone attacks on Russian territory, including a weekend barrage on Moscow's suburbs that killed three people and damaged several buildings and industrial facilities.

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives in Beijing on Tuesday. REUTERS

PUTIN IN CHINA

■ Russian President Vladimir Putin is visiting China to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Putin and Xi will discuss economic cooperation between the two countries, along with "key international and regional issues".

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly highlighted Moscow's nuclear arsenal since sending troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

Meanwhile, a senior Russian diplomat warned on Tuesday that the risks of a direct clash between Russia and the Nato are increasing, and that the consequences could be catastrophic.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said there was a growing narrative in European capitals about the "looming threat of a high-intensity war" with Russia.

India counters charges on human rights violations

NEW DELHI, DHNS

After the Netherlands, the Narendra Modi government faced questions from journalists in Norway about alleged human rights violations in India, prompting a stern response from senior diplomat Sibi George, who said such queries were based on "one or two reports published by some god-forsaken, ignorant" non-governmental organisations.

At a press conference held by New Delhi's diplomatic mission in Oslo following Modi's meeting with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre on Monday, George, Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), rejected allegations of a slide in human rights and press freedom in India.

"People have no understanding of the scale of India. They read one or two reports published by some god-forsaken, ignorant NGOs and then come and ask questions," he said. He was responding to a question from Helle Lyng of the Norwegian newspaper Dagsavisen. Lyng asked why Norway should trust India, whether India could "stop violations of human rights", and if the PM would take "critical questions" from the media in India.

"We are one sixth of the total population of the world, but not one sixth of the problems of the world. We have a Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental rights of the people," George said, adding, "We have equal rights for the women of our country, which is very important."

When Lyng pressed for an answer to her question "straightaway", a visibly agitated George shot back, "You asked me a question. Let me answer your question... Please don't interrupt me."

He then cited New Delhi's role during the Covid-19 pandemic and in international conflicts while responding to the query on why Norway should trust India.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A member of the security personnel arrives at the scene near a burning vehicle following an explosion in Damascus on Tuesday. One soldier was killed and 12 others were injured in the blast. AFP

Indian diplomat found dead inside mission premises in Bangladesh

▸ An official of the Indian High Commission in Chattogram, Bangladesh, was found dead inside the mission premises on Tuesday, PTI reports from Dhaka.

The deceased was identified as Naren Dhar, who was serving as an Assistant Protocol Officer at the Indian mission. "We have been told he was Naren Dhar and was serving as the assistant protocol officer at the mission," the port city's police spokesman Aminur Rashid told reporters. He said the official was in his late 30s. His body was found early in the morning in front of a bathroom door on the second floor of the diplomatic mission's old visa centre building. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the Assistant High Commission in Chattogram have so far made no comment on the death, which police initially suspect may have been caused by cardiac arrest.

Rubio to visit India from May 23

▸ US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will undertake a four-day visit to India beginning May 23 to further cooperation in trade, defence and energy, PTI reports from Washington.

The Department of State announced the visit that would take Rubio to Kolkata, Agrat, Jaipur and New Delhi. "Secretary Rubio will travel to India from May 23-26, where he will visit Kolkata, Agra, Jaipur, and New Delhi," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said. The Secretary will discuss energy, security, trade, and defence cooperation with senior Indian officials.

Muslim pilgrims pray at the Grand Mosque, ahead of the annual Haj pilgrimage, in Mecca, Saudi Arabia,on Tuesday. REUTERS

Israel intercepts flotilla boat

▸ Israeli forces intercepted another Gaza-bound flotilla boat on Tuesday, stopping the vessel when it was about 82 nautical miles from the Gaza Strip, according to the flotilla's online tracker, AP/PTI reports from Jerusalem.

A livestream on the website showed Israeli forces approaching the boat, named Andros, in a dinghy while activists stood with their arms raised. The broadcast later went dark, displaying a message stating that the vessel had been intercepted.

US to admit more Afrikaners

▸ The Trump administration plans to admit up to 10,000 white South African refugees into the United States in the coming months, arguing that Afrikaners face discrimination, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

The South African government has rejected the claims as baseless. Trump has repeatedly alleged that the white Afrikaner minority faces systematic discrimination and violence, particularly attacks targeting farming communities. The US State Department informed Congress on Monday that it plans to admit up to 17,500 Afrikaners as refugees

Pollock painting fetches $181 mn

▸ A Jackson Pollock painting sold for a record $181.2 million on Monday at Christie's in New York, leading a blockbuster day at the auction house, AFP reports from New York.

With its black paint drips accented by touches of red on a huge canvas spanning more than three metres, Pollock's "Number 7A, 1948" sold for $181.2 million, including fees. According to ARTnews, the sale makes it the fourth most expensive artwork ever sold at auction. The previous auction record for the Abstract Expressionist painter was $61.2 million, set in 2021. Other works by Pollock have been sold for as much as $200 million.

(From L) Actors Kristine Froseth, Havana Rose Liu, Sophie Thatcher and Charles Melton poses during a photocall of the film "Her Private Hell" at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France on Tuesday. AFP

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA UNDER TAKING)
Regd. Office "A" Block, 5th Floor, TTMC Building, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bangalore- 560027, Phone: 080-22278813, 22278814, 22278815, 22278816
Website: ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

1. Tender No. KSMCL/2026-27/SE0064/CALL-2/523

E-TENDER FOR SELECTION OF SALE CONTRACTOR

Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited (KSMCL) has called e-Tender to select Agency for Sale Contract of Doddamudavadi Granite Quarry, Bengaluru South District through e-Procurement portal.
Interested parties may download Tender documents from e-procurement portal, GOK website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For any support, interested persons may contact Mobile No: **9448510684 & 9620558595 / 8073422957.**

Sd/-
General Manager (MKT)

DIPR/CP/738/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/Bgkt/SEE(O)/AEE-8/F-2/26-27/3426-32 Date:19.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bids for the following work.
Tender No.KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3020/Call-2
Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H52/25-26/Rigidbus for Replacement of age old 220KV Rigid Bus by new 220kV Rigid Bus at **220kV R/s Ambewadi** in Sirsi Tq., Uttara Kannada District. Including supply of equipment/ materials, erection, civil work, testing and commissioning on **Total Turnkey Basis.** The tenders will be received through E-Procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the E-Procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https:// kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16:30 Hrs of 21.05.2026.**
Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Opp.Sector No.45, Navanagara, Bagalakote.

Teenagers kill 3 in attack on US mosque

SAN DIEGO (US), AP/PTI

Two teenage gunmen opened fire at a San Diego mosque on Monday, killing three men before taking their own lives a few blocks away, police said.

The attack at the Islamic Centre of San Diego is being investigated as a hate crime, San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said at a news conference held at a neighbourhood park across from the mosque. He said the "circumstances that led up to this" would become clearer in the coming days.

Wahl later said officers had been speaking with one of the teenagers' mothers earlier in the day after she contacted police at around 9.40 am to report that her son was missing along with multiple weapons and her vehicle. "She was beginning to develop a bigger picture of what she was dealing with and was conveying that to our officers, and we were trying to put that together and get out in front of this as quickly as we could," Wahl said.

The mother also found a note, Wahl said. He did not disclose its contents, but added: "There was definitely hate rhetoric involved," though there had been no specific threat against the Islamic Centre of San Diego.

Wahl said the teenager whose mother contacted police was a student at Madison High School, located about a mile away from the Islamic Centre. Police have not released the names of the teenagers.

Among those killed was a mosque security guard, who police believe "played a pivotal role" in preventing the attack from becoming "much worse", Wahl said.

Later, he said authorities were continuing to review the security guard's response.

A man carries his child as they leave a shooting site at the Islamic Center in San Diego on Monday. REUTERS

NOT TOO BAD

World won't get as hot as feared: Scientists

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

Scientists are abandoning their earlier worst- and best-case scenarios for global warming, saying they are no longer plausible.

The shift reflects modest gains in efforts to curb climate change, reducing the likelihood of the most catastrophic warming projections while confirming that the world is unlikely to meet the international warming target agreed in 2015.

Researchers have now outlined seven plausible future carbon pollution scenarios, effectively discarding the two extreme projections that have long shaped climate policy debates.

The changes stem largely from shifts in how the world generates energy. Carbon dioxide emissions from burning coal, oil and gas remain the main driver of global warming. However, increased use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal power has reduced the likelihood of the highest-end emissions scenarios. At the same time, the transition has not happened quickly enough to preserve the lowest-end warming projections.

The 2015 Paris Agreement set a target of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The goal gave rise to the slogan "1.5 to stay alive". Scientists now say even the most optimistic scenario exceeds that threshold.

At the other extreme, the latest projections no longer include the coal-intensive pathway that would have produced 4.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2100 — a scenario widely used in previous scientific studies.

The revised worst-case scenario now projects warming of around 3.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, about one degree lower than earlier estimates. Meanwhile, the updated best-case scenario is slightly warmer than previously expected and still exceeds the Paris target, said climate scientist Detlef van Vuuren of Utrecht University.

"There is a narrowing of the futures," said Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

Biz Bytes

Arundhati Bhattacharya

Salesforce expands India employee base

MUMBAI, PTI: CRM tech major Salesforce has expanded its India employee base to over 17,000 on the back of strong business growth, Arundhati Bhattacharya, President and Chief Executive for South Asia, said on Tuesday.

The company had last reported an employee base of over 14,000 in November 2025, stating that they are spread across offices in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune, and Jaipur.

Bharat Forge plans MGT repair centre in AP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bharat Forge Limited, through its aerospace business, signed an MoU with the Andhra Pradesh Government to establish India's first private-sector Marine Gas Turbine (MGT) repair, overhaul and indigenous development complex at Visakhapatnam. The MoU was signed by Guru Biswal, CEO – Aerospace, Bharat Forge, in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and AP CM N Chandrababu Naidu.

Airtel unveils Priority Postpaid 5G plans

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bharti Airtel on Tuesday announced the launch of Priority Postpaid 5G plans to offer its subscribers faster and more reliable telecom services by allocating a dedicated portion of the network for these users, separating them from other service categories.

This service is specially built for those busy customers who depend on uninterrupted connectivity for work, entertainment, or online collaboration.

For this service, Airtel has upgraded its 5G network with advanced capabilities of slicing technology.

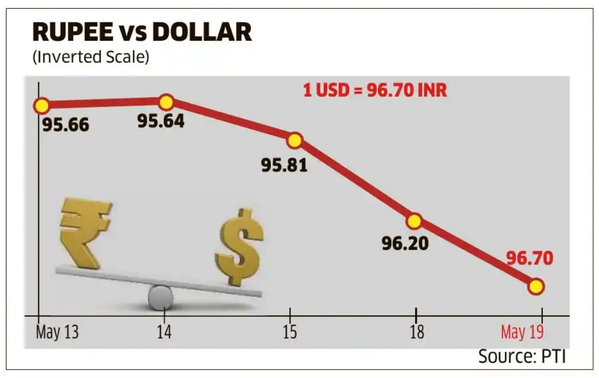
Orkla India Q4 profit up 2-fold at Rs 73 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI: Multi-category food company Orkla India on Tuesday reported a two-fold jump in net profit at Rs 73.43 crore for the March quarter FY26, helped by a higher EBITDA. It had logged a profit of Rs 35.24 crore during January-March FY25, according to a filing from Orkla, which owns MTR, Rasoi Magic, and Eastern.

Revenue from operations grew 5% YoY to Rs 625.8 crore in the quarter. EBITDA stood at Rs 100 crore, with EBITDA margins of 16%.

Rupee tumbles 50 paise to end at 96.70 against $

Traders cite rising crude prices, supply-chain issues



MUMBAI, PTI

The rupee descended for the eighth consecutive session and ended 50 paise down at its lowest-ever level of 96.70 against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by soaring crude oil prices, persistent foreign capital outflows, and a resilient dollar buoyed by global risk-aversion.

Rupee, Asia's worst-performing currency, has lost Rs 2.48 or 2.64% versus the greenback in the past eight sessions, since the closing level of 94.22 recorded on May 7.

Forex traders attributed the domestic currency's steep fall to rising crude oil prices and global supply-chain disruptions due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 96.38 against the US dollar and touched the intraday high of 96.27 during the session.

At the end of the session, the Indian currency was quoted at its historic low of 96.70 against the dollar, recording a steep fall of 50 paise from its previous closing level.

On Monday, the Indian rupee settled at 96.20 against the US dollar.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Commodities Research, Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said a strong dollar and rising US treasury yields amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions and FII outflows led the rupee to the negative territory. "However, any intervention by the RBI and certain restrictions on the import of gold and silver may support the rupee at lower levels. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 96 to 96.60," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.24, higher by 0.05% due to simmering Iran tensions.

Brent crude was trading down 1.92% at $109.95 per barrel in futures trade.

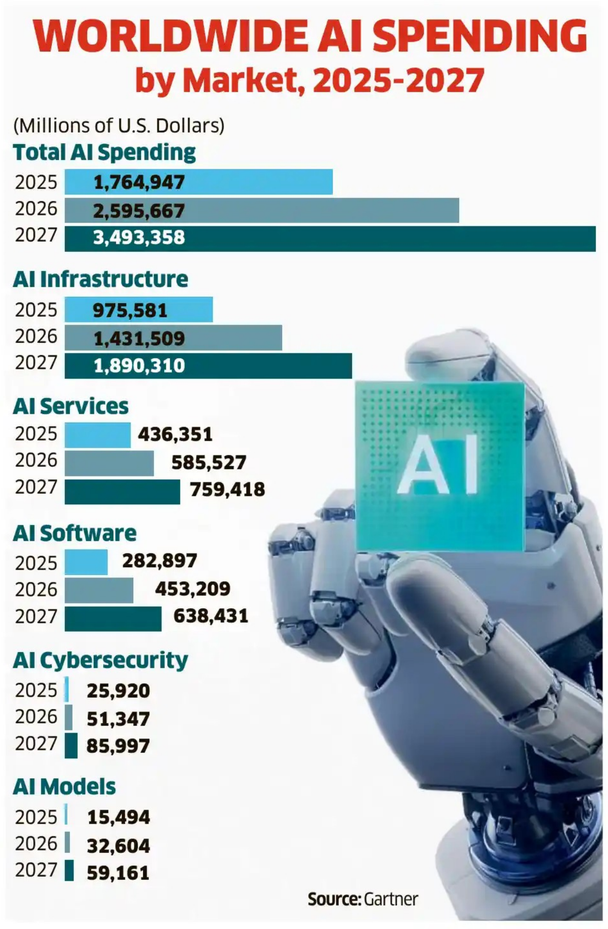
Traders said emerging market economies continue to feel the pressure of rising crude oil prices, as elevated rates accelerate the outflows of US dollars, along with the withdrawals of funds by foreign portfolio investors.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has said he halted fresh strikes on Iran at the request of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, asserting that serious discussions were underway with Tehran that could lead to an acceptable deal.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 114.19 points to settle at 75,200.85, while Nifty dipped 31.95 points to 23,618.

'Global AI spending to nearly double to $3.5 trillion by 2027'

Gartner says AI cybersecurity alone will more than triple



UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Worldwide AI spending is projected to increase from $1.76 trillion in 2025, to $3.49 trillion by 2027, representing a 98% growth over two years, according to Gartner data. AI Infrastructure and AI Services will drive most of the outlay, together accounting for over 75% of total spending by 2027.

Compared to 2025, data show that worldwide spending on AI is expected to grow 47% to $2.59 trillion in 2026. AI services alone will be $585.527 billion.

"Through the next several years, the need for capacity will make AI infrastructure, including AI-optimised IaaS, AI-optimised servers, AI network fabric, AI processing semiconductors and devices, the largest segment of the market, accounting for over 45% of spending, which will be driven by vendors," said John-David Lovelock, Distinguished VP Analyst at Gartner. "Within this segment, spending on AI-optimised servers will triple over the next five years to become the largest sub-segment, as cloud service providers expand capacity in anticipation of the workloads created by GenAI models and agentic workflows," he added.

Enterprises will expand their use of both the GenAI models embedded in existing software applications and the new AI agents within multiple workflows. Model consumption will increase through multi-step processes and integration into broad suites of tools as enterprises recognise the potential value of agentic automation. This dynamic means that the short-term outlook for AI models has been increased to 110% growth in 2026, adding $6 billion in spending for this year, Gartner data showed.

Of the total worldwide AI spending in 2027, AI cybersecurity alone will more than triple from $25.9 billion in 2025, to $85.9 billion by 2027, growing 231% in two years.

"Up to this point, AI spending has primarily been driven by technology companies and hyperscalers," said Lovelock. Enterprises have yet to really flex their spending potential. That is coming, and 2026 will be the inflection year. Currently, organisations show limited appetite for using AI to drive disruptive enterprise change. Instead, they favour tactical AI initiatives with incremental improvements in efficiency and productivity.

"For this reason, CIOs face challenges in proving the value from AI investments and demonstrating tangible business outcomes. Aligning AI initiatives with strategic business objectives is the essential step for success. This incremental approach persists despite AI hype and valuations that reflect aspirations to transform the broader economy," he added.

B'luru leads in dark store space with 153 sq ft per 1k people

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru leads India in dark store space with 153 sq ft per 1,000 people, compared to the national average of 50 sq ft. The gap highlights the city's high digital adoption and strong quick commerce penetration. Pune, Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR and Chennai range between 80-90 sq ft, indicating headroom for growth, according to ICICI Securities.

A dark store is a distribution centre that operates exclusively for online order fulfilment. All major e-commerce players are expanding their dark stores across the country. The report said, initially concentrated in high-density metropolitan markets such as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Kolkata, the model has demonstrated strong operational viability in urban clusters with high order density and demand intensity.

The report added that leading platforms have now scaled their networks to over 100 Tier-2 and 3 cities, extending faster delivery services beyond metros. While Maharashtra has a dark store count of 405, Karnataka has 382 dark stores, followed by Tamil Nadu at 262.

Unlike traditional e-commerce, which operates through large fulfilment centres and 2-3-day delivery timelines, quick commerce is built on hyperlocal dark stores — strategically located micro-warehouses designed exclusively for online orders.

A Redseer report states that quick commerce commands a market share of 0.6% in total retail and a penetration of 8.9% in online retail in FY25. By FY30, penetration is expected to reach 30-33% in online retail, and 4% in total retail, driving the quick commerce market size from Rs 5.3 lakh crore to Rs 4.5-6.0 lakh crore.

In its report, ICICI Securities also pointed out that one of the most-visible structural trends is the emergence of a dual-platform ecosystem combining dark stores and cloud kitchens. While dark stores are optimised for rapid delivery of groceries and daily essentials, cloud kitchens focus on freshly prepared, ready-to-eat meals.

"Increasingly, q-commerce players are integrating both models to unlock operational synergies and maximise asset utilisation. Single-brand and multi-brand cloud kitchen operators are setting up kitchen infrastructure within or adjacent dark store networks, enabling faster fulfilment and leveraging existing delivery fleets. This convergence is reshaping urban consumption patterns, allowing platforms to serve both essential and food-service demand through a unified logistics backbone," it added.

PepsiCo India to invest Rs 5,700 cr by 2030

NEW DELHI, PTI: PepsiCo will invest up to Rs 5,700 crore in India by 2030, mainly to ramp up the manufacturing capacity of its foods business, its India and South Asia CEO Jagrut Kotecha said on Tuesday.

PepsiCo India, which posted a profit after tax of Rs 905 crore in the 12 months ended December 2025, with a total revenue of Rs 9,789 crore, will invest mainly in three manufacturing facilities in Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu, Kotecha told reporters.

India, being one of the top 13 markets for PepsiCo, continues to commit and invest, he said.

"We are committed, and as a result, from 2025 to 2030, we have committed almost Rs 5,700 crore of investments," Kotecha said.

The investment is primarily for the concentrates plant in Madhya Pradesh and snacks plants in Assam and Tamil Nadu, he added.

"Some of this is going live in the next few months, like the concentrates plant in Madhya Pradesh, Northeast plant in Assam," Kotecha said.

He further said, "The land purchase, which we have just done recently in Tamil Nadu, will allow us to open a massive footprint in the South for our snacks business."

Apple to open second store in Bengaluru

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Apple is all set to launch its second outlet in Bengaluru, after already having opened a store in Hebbal less than a year ago.

Accordingly, the iPhone-maker has opened multiple retail job roles, including Operations Expert, Genius, Expert, Business Pro, Technical Specialist, and Creative, who will assist customers in setting up devices. The location details of the job postings on Apple's careers page indicate that the company will open the new store in East Bengaluru, most likely in Phoenix Marketcity mall, in Whitefield, Mahadevapura.

As key markets such as the US, China and Europe reach saturation, Apple has increasingly shifted focus to emerging markets, particularly India, which is the world's second-biggest and fastest-growing smartphone market.

In the recently announced financial results, for the first time, Apple India registered double-digit growth in three major segments: iPhones, Mac computers and iPads. Previously, only the iPhone used to be the biggest revenue generator for the company. Now, thanks to affordable iPads and the all-new MacBook Neo, Apple has registered significant sales in these categories.

Apple is expected to launch a new store in Hyderabad, most probably by the year-end. And, the East Bengaluru store may open in early 2027.

Puravankara logs Rs 110 crore net profit in fourth quarter

Ashish Puravankara

BENGALURU, DHNS: Real estate developer Puravankara Limited has reported a net profit of Rs 110 crore during the fourth quarter ended March 2026, as against a net loss of Rs 88 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Its revenue increased 173% to Rs 1,541 crore in the quarter, as against Rs 564 crore in the year ago quarter.

"Q4FY26 was a staggering quarter for Puravankara as we recorded our highest-ever sales; a 37% increase in average realisation and PAT of Rs 111 crore. The company also strengthened its expansion in Mumbai through redevelopment projects in Malabar Hill and Chembur," Ashish Puravankara, Managing Director, Puravankara Limited, said.

For FY26, Puravankara reported the highest-ever annual sales of Rs 7,407 crore, a 55% increase YoY from Rs 4,783 crore. Sales volume for the year stood at 7.25 msft, compared to 5.67 msft in FY25.

The company also recorded a 21% YoY increase in average realisation, which stood at Rs 10,213 per sq ft on saleable area. Collections for FY26 rose 15% to Rs 4,258 crore, compared to Rs 3,711 crore in FY25.

BEL's net profit up 4.6% in Q4

BENGALURU, DHNS: Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) on Tuesday reported a marginal rise of 4.6% in its consolidated net profit at Rs 2,203 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026. In the corresponding quarter last year, its net profit stood at Rs 2,105 crore.

Its revenue from operations stood at Rs 10,177 crore during the quarter, a growth of 11.5% over the corresponding quarter last year. In the fourth quarter of FY25, BEL's revenue stood at Rs 9,120 crore.

For the full year ended March 2026, BEL reported 14.38% rise in net profit at Rs 6,048.48 crore as against Rs 5,288.25 crore in the previous year.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08352–276124, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dswovjp@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಉನಿಸಕಇ/ಎಂಡಿಆರ್.ಎಸ್/ಲೆಕ್ಕ/ಹೊಸಂ/ಸಿಆರ್/2025–26/83 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.05.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ, ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ಬಾಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರತ ರತ್ನ ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ಬಾಲಕಿಯರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ಆದಿವಾಸಿ ಬುಡಕಟ್ಟು ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ "ಸಿ" ಮತ್ತು "ಡಿ" ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಾದ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು, ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಜವಾನರು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು.

Calendar of Events

1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ & ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಉನಿಸಕಇ/ವಿ.ನಿ/ಹೊ.ಸಂ.ಟೆ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್: 2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2026 SWD/2025-26/SE0236/CALL-2
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ರೂ. 1209.37 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.
3	ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ	ರೂ. 12.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.
4	ಬಿಡ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ (Pre-Bid Meeting) ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ	ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.05.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ.
5	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.06.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ.
6	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ದಿನಾಂಕ :06.06.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ)
7	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.06.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ. (ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ)
8	ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿಳಾಸ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dswovjp@gmail.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/104/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

LONDON-BENGALURU FLIGHT

'India to monitor Boeing fuel-switch test tied to Air India incident'

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

Indian air safety officials plan to travel to Seattle to observe Boeing's testing of a fuel-control switch panel that was removed from an Air India 787 in February, after the pilots on a London-Bengaluru flight flagged a possible defect, according to documents seen by *Reuters*.

The testing, described by Indian officials as "sensitive", renews the spotlight on the switches on Boeing Dreamliners that regulate the flow of jet fuel into a plane's engines as investigators prepare a final report into an Air India 787 crash that killed 260 people in Ahmedabad last June. The switches, designed to be immovable without specific actions from pilots, have come under scrutiny since the preliminary report into the crash found they had been shut off nearly simultaneously, starving the engines of fuel.

During the February incident in London, the pilots observed during the engine start that the fuel switches did not remain fixed in the "run" position on the first two attempts when light vertical pressure was applied but were stable on a third try before takeoff, the DGCA said previously.

UK authorities investigated the incident, but Boeing privately told Air India in February that the module containing the fuel switches was found to be "serviceable", according to an email seen by *Reuters*. The DGCA had said the switches passed checks. The module was nevertheless sent to a Boeing facility in Seattle for testing, according to confidential emails seen by *Reuters* being reported for the first time.

As "the matter is sensitive in nature, Air India is hereby directed to ensure that the strip/test examination at OEM's (Boeing) premises is carried out in the presence of a

DGCA officer," Manish Kumar, a DGCA deputy director of airworthiness, wrote in his March 9 email.

While it is not unusual for plane-makers to perform such analyses for airline customers, the email did not explain why the regulator considered the matter sensitive and insisted on attending.

In a statement, Air India said the module was confirmed as "fully functional" by Boeing and the DGCA, but the decision to proceed with further testing is "understood to be intended to ensure a thorough and conclusive evaluation as a measure of abundant caution".

The additional testing "involves examination in a controlled laboratory environment to definitively confirm its performance and integrity", said Air India, which is owned by the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines.

The DGCA, Kumar, and Boeing did not respond to *Reuters*' queries.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates Boeing aircraft, has said last year's Air India crash, the world's deadliest in a decade, does not appear to have been caused by a mechanical issue.

Recorded dialogue between the two pilots on the flight suggested that the captain cut the flow of fuel to the engines, while the first officer was flying the plane, *Reuters* reported last year citing a source briefed on US officials' early assessment.

Such a prospect was denounced by a pilots' union in India and the captain's father, who called for an independent investigation to look into other causes.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

> Ruturaj will be going through that (transition) as part of his development. It's a big transition from having one of the best captains (in MS Dhoni) at cricket scene.
>
> **STEPHEN FLEMING, CSK COACH**

RR ride Sooryavanshi storm

Teenager steals Marsh's thunder to keep Rajasthan's playoffs hopes alive

JAIPUR, PTI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi slammed a breathtaking 93 off just 38 balls as Rajasthan Royals defeated Lucknow Super Giants in a high-scoring affair at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Tuesday. AFP

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continued his evening ritual of leaving spectators spellbound with a breathtaking 38-ball 93 as Rajasthan Royals moved closer to a playoff berth with a one-sided seven-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

The 15-year-old, who is all set to board the flight to Dublin with the Indian senior team next month, was once again unstoppable, clobbering 10 sixes in an extraordinary display of bat speed and razor-sharp hand-eye coordination.

By the time, he missed out on his third IPL century by a mere seven runs, he had ensured Royals would make a meal of what could have been a tricky 221-run chase after Mitchell Marsh's 57-ball-96 had taken LSG to 220 for 5.

And certainly, the icing on the cake was Ian Bishop's line on air, one that could well be remembered for posterity: "He is ready."

Royals are now on 14 points and would need a win against Mumbai Indians in their last game to make it to the playoffs.

If Marsh was muscularity pro-max, Sooryavanshi was all about amazing skill-set where a leg-spinner's slider delivered at an angle could be dispatched into extra cover stands with disdain.

While Marsh hit poor balls for sixes, Sooryavanshi sent the good ones sailing into the stands. And when it came to poor deliveries, he tortured them.

He is well on his way (53) to break Chris Gayle's (59) record of maximum sixes in a season. He is now 26 runs short of completing 600 runs in the season.

Dhruv Jurel completed the chase with an unbeaten 38-ball 53 but the night unquestionably belonged to the teenage sensation, who continued to display surreal quality.

Mayank Yadav, the man who burst into the 2024 IPL as India's fastest ever bowler, was dispatched for 29 runs in a single over. The short balls were pulled, the fuller ones were driven and anything with width was flayed. The drooping shoulder of Prince Yadav, who got his maiden India call-up on the day, said it all.

LSG skipper Rishabh Pant, already reeling under pressure to revive his white-ball international career, looked increasingly helpless as the carnage unfolded around him.

Earlier, Marsh trumped Royals attack with a 57-ball-96 but Jofra Archer's five-run final over did boost the home team's confidence.

After Jos Inglis' 29-ball-60 provided the initial impetus, Australian opener Mitchell Marsh, nicknamed as 'Bison' in the cricketing universe, displayed ox-like muscularity smashing 11 fours and five sixes, once again emerging as his team's batting hero for the umpteenth time during the current season.

This was his third score of 90 or more in one season.

In a season full of disappointments for LSG, Marsh's performance (563 runs in 13 games) has been the only saving grace for Sanjeev Goenka's men.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS: Mitchell Marsh (run out) 96, Josh Inglis b Punja 60, Nicholas Pooran c Ferreira b Punja 16, Rishabh Pant (run out) 35, Abdul Samad (not out) 0, Ayush Badoni b Archer 0. Extras (LB-3 W-9 NB-1) 13.

TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 220.

Fall of wickets: 1-109, 2-151, 3-215, 4-220, 5-220.

Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-39-1, Sushant Mishra 4-0-46-0, Sandeep Sharma 3-0-43-0, Brijesh Sharma 4-0-44-0, Yash Raj Punja 4-0-35-2, Dasun Shanaka 1-0-10-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Pant b Akash 43, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi c Samad b Mohsin 93, Dhruv Jurel (not out) 53, Lhuandre Pretorius (run out) 7, Donovan Ferreira (not out) 16. Extras (LB-3 W-10) 13.

TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 19.1 overs) 225.

Fall of wickets: 1-75, 2-180, 3-196.

Bowling: Akash Maharaj Singh 3-0-54-1, Mohsin Khan 4-0-31-1, Mayank Yadav 4-0-50-0, Prince Yadav 4-0-43-0, Digvesh Singh Rathi 4-0-38-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 0.1-0-6-0.

Result: RR won by 7 wkts

PoM: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Kohli thanks coach Dravid for caring, nurturing

Former captain urges youngsters not to be driven only by money

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Virat Kohli (right) credited former head coach Rahul Dravid and batting coach Vikram Rathour (not in photo) for his good run in Tests in 2023. PTI

Virat Kohli has spent a lot of time in pursuit of relentless excellence. Not only has he scored truckloads of runs across formats, but has also redefined expectations, rewritten beliefs and also set a blueprint for an Indian side to play Test cricket away from home.

By the time he stepped away from captaincy, India had firmly believed they could win a Test series anywhere in the world.

However, he admitted there was a phase in his career where he felt "completely spent" because of the weight he continuously carried on his shoulders while leading the team.

"I ended up being in a place where I became the focal point of our batting and leadership," Kohli said during the third edition of RCB Innovation Lab's Indian Sports Summit. "I didn't realise how much load both those took. I was so driven and motivated to just make sure that Indian cricket stays on top, I didn't really pay attention. And that's why by the time I left captaincy, I was completely spent.

"There was nothing left in the tank to give. I was completely consumed by it. It was gruesome and it was difficult to manage expectations," he added.

Kohli, who stepped down from captaincy after India's 2-1 defeat to South Africa in 2022, endured a horrid run with the bat the same year, averaging 26.50 in 11 innings in Tests. However, he flipped the script in 2023, almost doubling it to 55.91 in 12 innings that included two hundreds.

Kohli was all gratitude towards Rahul Dravid and Vikram Rathour, saying it was the coaching staffs' genuineness that drove him to bring his best for them.

"Only when I left captaincy, I opened up. Like to Rahul (Dravid) bhai and Vikram Rathour, for example. I had a great run in Test cricket in 2023. Whenever I see them and meet them, I always thank them from the bottom of my heart. They really took care of me in a way that made me feel like I wanted to play for them. I want to perform. I want to go out there and grind it out. I want to do the hard work for them. Because they were so caring and nurturing."

Respect over money

The 37-year-old Kohli urged youngsters to not be carried away by the glitz and glamour of the IPL but to develop their game for Test cricket, which ultimately earns the respect and recognition of the cricketing world.

"It is the drive which is the difference maker. A lot of people relate drive to money. It is not the only factor. It is a big factor because when a format that gives you the hype and the fame by scoring quickly and the kind of money that people can make in the IPL today, it can put you in a very comfortable space."

"I don't need to handle pressure for too long and I can go out there and smash the ball. Or you can say, I want to play for 15-20 years. I want to get recognition and respect of the cricketing world, of my own heroes and I want to fulfil this opportunity. That's a very different zone. You have to be very driven to be able to say, I'm going to commit to this for the next 10-15 years and it's going to be very, very hard but I'm up for it."

It's do-or-die for fighting Knights

KOLKATA, PTI

Kolkata Knight Riders will be eyeing another strong show from their gun spinner Sunil Narine when they take on Mumbai Indians on Wednesday. PTI

LIVE 7:30 PM

Their campaign hanging by a thread, Kolkata Knight Riders will have no option but to go all out against an already-eliminated Mumbai Indians in a crucial IPL match here on Wednesday.

A defeat will officially end KKR's playoff hopes for the second successive season under Ajinkya Rahane after their disappointing eighth-place finish in 2025, a year after lifting the title under Shreyas Iyer.

Even a win, however, may not be enough for the Rahane-led side as KKR's fate will still depend on Punjab Kings' away match against Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday.

If Punjab win that game, KKR's final league fixture against Delhi Capitals here on Sunday will become a dead rubber.

As things stand, defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad have already sealed playoff berths, while Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians are out of contention.

That leaves five teams -- Punjab Kings (13 points), Rajasthan Royals (12), Chennai Super Kings (12), Delhi Capitals (12) and Kolkata Knight Riders (11) -- battling for the lone remaining playoffs spot.

Among them, only Rajasthan Royals and KKR have two matches left.

Rajasthan have the simplest equation -- win both remaining games against LSG and MI to finish on 16 points and seal qualification.

KKR, on the other hand, not only need to win both their matches but also hope Punjab stumble against LSG, as Punjab can still finish on 15 points with a significantly superior net run rate.

In hindsight, KKR would rue their poor start to the season. The Shah Rukh Khan-owned franchise has now won five of its last six matches, but the turnaround came too late after a disastrous opening stretch of six-match winless run.

It took captain Rahane and coach Abhishek Nayar nearly seven games to settle on a winning combination, something marquee overseas signing Cameron Green also admitted after their victory over in-form Gujarat Titans in the previous match here.

Since registering their first win against Rajasthan Royals, KKR have looked a transformed side.

Finn Allen has rediscovered his form at the top, smashing a century and a blistering 35-ball 93 in his last three innings, while young keeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Green have grown in confidence with every game.

Kohli highest grosser in IPL history

MUMBAI, PTI

Virat Kohli has emerged as the highest earner in the 18-year-old IPL's history, grossing Rs 230 crore from his association with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, as per a report published on Tuesday.

The combined valuation of all 10 Indian Premier League franchises stands at Rs 1.63 lakh crore, the report by Fanatic Sports and Hurun said.

The Shah Rukh Khan-owned Kolkata Knight Riders leads with a valuation of over Rs 19,200 crore, followed by the Ambani-owned Mumbai Indians at Rs 18,400 crore and Chennai Super Kings at Rs 18,400 crore, the report said.

Interestingly, the average valuation of an IPL team is projected to jump to USD 15 billion by 2032 from the present USD 1.8 billion, the report, which comes amid a heightened interest in deal-making among franchisees, said.

"India is standing at the base of that curve right now. Talent is being manufactured at the grassroots. Capital is arriving at the top. A billion-plus consumers are about to have the income to participate in between," Hurun India's founder and chief researcher Anas Rahman Junaid said.

Rohit Sharma with earnings of Rs 227.2 crore and MS Dhoni at Rs 200 crore follow Kohli in all-time IPL earnings, the report added.

In contrast, among women cricketers, Smriti Mandhana tops Women's Premier League with cumulative earnings of Rs 13.7 crore and the top-10 women players have earned just Rs 90 crore till now.

In the case of hockey, the contrasts are even starker.

Defender Harmanpreet Singh commands the highest salary in the Hockey India League with a salary of Rs 78 lakh, followed by Rs 72 lakh grossed by Abhishek Nain, a forward, and Rs 70 lakh by midfielder Hardik Singh.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	13	9	4	0	18	1.065
Gujarat Titans (Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.400
Sunrisers(Q)	13	8	5	0	16	0.350
Rajasthan Royals	13	7	6	0	14	0.883
Punjab Kings	13	6	6	1	13	0.227
Chennai Super Kings	13	6	7	0	12	-0.016
Delhi Capitals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	5	6	1	11	-0.038
Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	0	8	-0.504
Lucknow Super Giants	13	4	9	0	8	-0.702

'BCCI can't interfere in franchise decisions'

GUWAHATI, PTI: Kolkata Knight Riders courted controversy by forcing India's centrally contracted player Varun Chakravarthy to play despite a fractured left foot but BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia conceded that the board "cannot interfere" in franchise's affairs when the IPL is on.

"So far as IPL is concerned, franchises take care of the injuries and fitness of the players. Of course, physios from COE (Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru) are also monitoring them, workload as well as plan on how to keep them fit," Saikia said but his next statement was worrisome. "The monitoring is there but when IPL is going on, we cannot interfere too much, had it been Indian team situation, our control would have been more," Saikia added.

Lokesh returns to India eyeing CWG, Asiad success

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Lokesh Sathyanathan

Long jumper Lokesh Sathyanathan, a Bengaluru-born athlete competing in the USA collegiate system, has returned to India eyeing berths in the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games later this year.

The 26-year-old athlete, who is a college athlete at Tarleton State University, has been granted an exemption by the Athletics Federation of India to compete in the upcoming final trials for the Commonwealth Games at the National Athletics Federation Competition in Ranchi from May 22.

The athlete, who also intends to compete in the final trials for the Asian Games at the National Inter-State Championships in late June, was unable to fulfill the criterion to compete in at least two national-level domestic events and a state meet to be eligible for the trials, owing to examinations for his latest semester.

However, Lokesh, whose father is a retired footballer and taxi driver, was granted an exemption by AFI under special circumstances; something that the federation stated in the past too.

The long jumper has shown tremendous growth this season as he became an NCAA champion at the prestigious NCAA Division I Indoor Track and Field Championships with a personal best of 8.21 metres in March.

He repeated his best at a World Athletics-ratified domestic event in Texas last April as well. The effort, though not recognised by AFI, is the leading jump among senior long jumpers in India this season, including in-form Murali Sreeshankar, who leapt to a season best 8.15m in Bengaluru last April. Lokesh's PB is also ranks him among the top six of both Asian and CWG nations.

The confident young man, who plans to return to the USA for his final year in July, sets his sights on CWG and Asiad glory.

"I just don't want to qualify for the CWG and Asiad but want to win medals at both events," Lokesh told *DH* from Mumbai. "My coach (Bobby Carter) and I have worked on several aspects of my jumps this season and I am eager to make it count at the big level."

Bopanna open to taking up administrative role at AITA

MUMBAI, PTI: The legendary Rohan Bopanna **(in pic)** on Tuesday expressed his willingness to take up an administrative role at the All India Tennis Association, which is set to hold elections in the coming time, saying he would "love to make a real change".

Last month, the Delhi High Court had allowed the election results of September 2024 to stand but directed the elected body to function only as an interim arrangement, under the supervision of the court-appointed administrator, former Chief Justice Gita Mittal.

Justice Mittal was also directed by the court to conduct fresh elections within three months after aligning the constitution with the Sports Act 2025, and the Sports Governance Rules 2026.

"The elections are coming up and yes if there is an opportunity to change Indian sport and me being part of that, I would love to be associated where I could make a real change in developing Indian tennis," Bopanna told PTI in an exclusive interview here on the sidelines of KIA and Tennis Premier League's three-year partnership announcement.

"That is what is really needed, not just hold a position to be there and not really create an impact. If I can create an impact, yeah why not?," Bopanna said.

Elaborating on his 'Doubles Dream of India' program at his academy, Bopanna said it is crucial for Indian tennis to focus on its strengths.

"The only reason doubles is better in terms of singles today is because there is a program which we support for the doubles program and it's called the 'Doubles Dream of India', for which we have a sponsor."

Sureshkumar stuns Smith

BENGALURU, DHNS

Wild card entrant Manish Sureshkumar knocked out top seed Keegan Smith of the USA in the SM Krishna Memorial tournament on Tuesday. DH FILE PHOTO

The two Indians who made the loudest noise last week at the Karnataka Open, once again began the second of the ATP 50 Challenger events -- the SM Krishna Memorial -- with a big bang here on Tuesday.

First, it was Bengaluru boy and wild card entrant Kriish Tyagi, who had reached the semifinal, carried forward his good form to knock out world No. 606 Kuan-Yi Lee of Chinese Taipei with a hard-fought 7-6 (8), 7-6 (4) win.

Later, Chennai man and another wild card-holder Manish Sureshkumar, who made it to the quarterfinal, caused the biggest upset of the tournament by defeating top seed and last week's champion Keegan Smith of the USA.

In a battle that lasted one hour 47 minutes, the 26-year-old world No. 737 came through 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 over the 245-ranked American.

Following an exchange of breaks early on, Sureshkumar broke Smith for the second time in the ninth game to lead 5-4 and held serve in the 10th game to grab the opener. The towering Smith then hit back by powering his way through the second set.

However, the Indian struck in the first game of the decider to take a 1-0 lead and held his fort before breaking Smith again in the seventh. The double blow and the top seed's game deserting him, saw Sureshkumar convert his first match point successfully to advance to the second round.

Unseeded Mukund Sasikumar brought more cheer to the hosts by moving into the pre-quarterfinal after beating eighth seed Maximus Jones of Thailand 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).

Results (Round of 32, prefix denotes seedings): Singles: 2-Alastair Gray (GBR) bt Q-Aradhya Kshitij (Ind) 6-1, 6-2; Leo Vithoontien (Jpn) bt Digvijaypratap Singh (Ind) 6-3, 6-4; 4-Petr Bar Biryukov bt Q-Christopher Papa (USA) 6-2, 6-2; Yusuke Takahashi (Jpn) bt Ryuki Matsuda (Jpn) 6-4, 6-2; Dominik Palan (CZE) bt Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt 7-Karan Singh (Ind) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; Alex Hernandez (Mex) bt Q-Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-4 7-6 (6); Mukund Sasikumar (Ind) bt 8-Maximus Jones (Tha) 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5); Q-Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) bt Takuya Kumasaka (Jpn) 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (5); 3-Hamish Stewart (GBR) bt WC-Aditya Vishal Balsekar (Ind) 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-4; WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) bt Kuan-Yi Lee (Tpe) 7-6 (8), 7-6 (4); Ilya Ivashka bt SD Prajwal Dev (Ind) 6-3, 6-2; WC-Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) bt 1-Keegan Smith (USA) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; Q-Naoya Honda (Jpn) bt LL-Nitin Kumar Sinha (Ind) 6-4, 6-1.

Carlos Alcaraz

Alcaraz withdraws from Wimbledon

MADRID, AFP: Carlos Alcaraz's hopes of regaining his Wimbledon title have been dashed with the two-time champion announcing Tuesday he is withdrawing as he recovers from a wrist injury.

"My recovery is going well and I'm feeling much better but unfortunately I'm still not ready to play, I am obliged to withdraw from both Queen's and Wimbledon," said Spaniard Alcaraz, who lost to world number one Jannik Sinner in last year's final.

"These are two really special tournaments for me and I'll miss them a lot. We'll keep working to come back as soon as possible."

Alcaraz sustained the injury during the first round of the Barcelona Open and subsequently pulled out of tournaments in Madrid and Rome and then Roland Garros, where he is the reigning two-time champion.

The world number two became the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam in January with his triumph at the Australian Open. The 23-year-old holds a 22-3 record this season and also won a title in Doha.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: KKR vs MI **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

Europa League final: Freiburg vs Aston Villa **(12:30 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, SonyLIV**.

CRICKET

Pant axed as Test deputy, loses ODI spot to Kishan

Rahul named vice-captain in red-ball cricket, Bumrah rested

BENGALURU, DHNS

(From left) Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul and Ishan Kishan. PTI/AFP FILE PHOTOS

Rishabh Pant's free fall in fortunes hit a new low when the flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was stripped of Test vice-captaincy for the one-off match against Afghanistan. The Delhiite, in fact, had led India in their last Test against South Africa in Shubman Gill's injury-forced absence in Guwahati where the tourists handed the hosts a 408-run loss and a 2-0 series drubbing.

That was not all. His poor form in the ongoing Indian Premier League cost him his place in ODIs as a resurgent Ishan Kishan took the second wicketkeeper's slot in the squad for the three-match series against the same opponents.

K L Rahul, who has been prolific in Tests in the last couple of years, replaced Pant as Gill's deputy. Punjab Kings' skipper Shreyas Iyer, meanwhile, has been elevated as the vice-captain of the ODI side.

"Rishabh is an incredible Test player. He is not in the ODI team at the moment. We want him to become the best Test player that he can be. I don't think there is any concern about his spot in the Test team," Agarkar said during a virtual interaction.

"He (Pant) had a really good tour of England till he got injured (toe fracture). I am sure he would like a few more runs but he has been very good in Test cricket. Yes, we have gone with two options (Rahul and Kishan) in ODI cricket but in Test he remains one of our main players," he added .

Asked if Rahul was made a vice-captain keeping in mind the future, Agarkar said it was the best option at the moment.

"KL has been Test captain before. Obviously, Rishabh was vice captain but we want him to be the best batter that he can be and as he has always been in Test cricket. No other reason. Futuristic or not? Well, we think that's the best option that we have as far as vice captain is concerned," he said.

The veteran duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be back in India colours again since January this year when the ODIs commence.

While pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was expectedly rested from both the series as part of his workload management, in-form batter Devdutt Padikkal retained his place in the Test squad.

Along with Bumrah, senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja too been given a break from the upcoming Test match to be held in Mullanpur starting June 6.

Promising Rajasthan left-arm spin bowler Manav Suthar and Punjab pacer Gurnoor Brar have earned maiden call-ups to the Test squad. Suthar, who took 18 wickets in three Ranji Trophy matches last season, has 129 wickets in 29 games, including three 10-wicket match hauls and six five-wicket hauls.

Brar, with 52 wickets in 18 first-class games, is known for his pace but he is unlikely to feature in the playing XI with the likes of Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna in the line-up.

Jammu & Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi should feel hard done by the slight. The right-arm quick took 60 wickets in his state's maiden Ranji Trophy-triumphant campaign this past season and has over 100 wickets over the last two seasons.

Another left-arm spinning all-rounder Axar Patel too has been left out with the selectors opting for Vidarbha's Harsh Dubey who can essay a similar role.

Lucknow Super Giants' quick Prince Yadav, who has been one of the very few bright spots for the struggling franchise, has been rewarded with a place in the ODIs. Brar has also been included in the ODI squad.

The one-off Test, which isn't part of the World Test Championship cycle, will be followed by ODIs scheduled from June 14 across Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai.

SQUADS

■ **One-off Test: Shubman Gill (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul (vice-captain), Sai Sudharsan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Devdutt Padikkal, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey, Dhruv Jurel (wk).**

■ ODIs: Shubman Gill (captain), Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Harsh Dubey, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar.

Ashmita qualifies for main draw

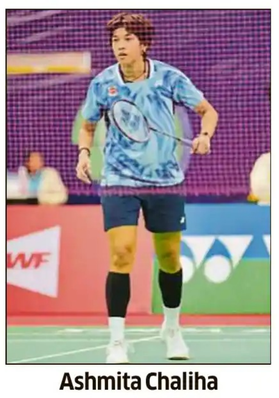
KUALA LUMPUR, PTI: Indian shuttler Ashmita Chaliha defeated Pai Yu-po of Chinese Taipei in a tough three-game contest to qualify for the women's singles main draw of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

Chaliha, 26, beat Yu-po 21-23, 21-16, 21-16 in the qualification match that lasted 56 minutes.

She will take on world no. 56 Thalita Ramadhani Wiryawan of Indonesia in the opening round of main draw.

But it was curtains for Aakarshi Kashyap, who lost 21-15, 20-22, 7-21 against Park Ga Eun of Korea in her women's singles qualifying match.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Ajun, meanwhile, progressed to the second round with a stunning 21-19, 21-15 win over seventh seeds Christo Popov and Toma Junior Popov of France.



Ashmita Chaliha

HI calls meeting over sexual misconduct rows

NEW DELHI, PTI

Hockey India has called an urgent executive board meeting to discuss stringent action, including possible life bans, amid a series of sexual harassment, misconduct and indiscipline cases that have rocked the sport over the last few months.

In an email sent to executive board members, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey **(in pic)** stressed the need for a "zero tolerance" approach towards sexual harassment, abuse of authority and ethical misconduct.

The meeting is expected to focus on reviewing all ongoing and reported cases, strengthening POSH compliance and reporting mechanisms, ensuring protection for complainants and whistleblowers, fixing accountability for individuals or bodies found complicit or negligent, and adopting a stronger disciplinary framework.

"Over the last six months, our sport has faced a series of deeply damaging media reports. Most concerning are at least five publicly reported cases involving sexual harassment, misconduct, ethical violations and disciplinary failures. Every case relating to sexual harassment must be dealt with institutionally and strictly in accordance with the POSH Act, 2013," Tirkey said in the email.

"We must adopt a firm zero tolerance approach towards sexual harassment, abuse of authority, intimidation, ethical misconduct, or any attempt to suppress complaints.

"Strong disciplinary action including life bans where warranted should be considered."

Hockey India was rocked by a controversy recently after it removed support staff member and coach Sudhir Golla from the ongoing U-18 boys' national camp in Bhopal after allegations of misconduct surfaced against him.

The development came shortly after the Jharkhand government removed Golla from his role at the Eklavya Hockey Training Centre in Ranchi for being absent from training duties without approval and behaving inappropriately with female trainees.

Tirkey expressed concern over the reluctance of women officials to formally report incidents due to fear of retaliation.

Bangla on brink of Test series win over Pak

SYLHET, AFP

Bangladesh are three wickets away from a famous Test series win at home after spinner Taijul Islam took 4/113 to rattle Pakistan despite a rearguard by the opposition batters on Tuesday.

Taijul Islam

Pakistan ended day four on 316/7, needing another 121 runs for victory in what would be a record chase of 437 on the fifth and final day in Sylhet.

Mohammad Rizwan, on 75, and Sajid Khan, on eight, were unbeaten at the close of play.

Left-arm spinner Taijul struck key blows, including Babar Azam for 47 and Salman Agha on 71, to keep Bangladesh in the hunt for their first-ever Test series win over Pakistan at home.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 278 & 390 vs Pakistan: 232 & 316/7 (Shan Masood 71, Babar Azam 47, Salman Agha 71, Mohammad Rizwan 75 n.o.; Nahid Rana 2-58, Taijul Islam 4-113).

Arnav, Vedant star in Gymkhana win

BENGALURU, DHNS

Arnav N Manchale and Vedant Shaurya registered hundreds while Chiranjith SP picked up a five-wicket haul as City Gymkhana trounced Yankees Cricket Club by a whopping 258 runs in the KSCA under-16 Inter-club tournament here.

Batting first, City Gymkhana posted 347/3 in 50 overs on the back of contributions from Arnav (132 not out) and Vedant (100).

Carrying the first innings momentum, City Gymkhana's Chiranjith returned with figures of 5/19 as Yankees, chasing a mammoth 348 for victory, were shot out for just 89 in 31.5 overs.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: City Gymkhana: 347/3 in 50 overs (Pushkar S 69, Arnav N Manchale 132 n.o., Vedant Shaurya 100) bt Yankees Cricket Club: 89 all out in 31.5 overs (Chiranjith SP 5-19, Tejas Sudhindra Bhat 2-21, Nandheeshwara HS 2-4).
Engrades Cricket Club: 271 all out in 48.5 overs (Samvit Shastri 63, Sriganesh M 93, Rohit Sai Ketireddi 29; Yuvraj NG 2-53, Krishna Verma 3-28) bt Sapphire Cricket Club: 201 all out in 41.4 overs (Viresh Moktan 25, Mokshith Bakkamanthula 36, Aryan Kadadevarmath 28, Rajath Hegde 50, A Mithun Rao 26; Nitish Kumar V 3-27, Tarun Rajesh 2-25).
Social Cricketers: 310/7 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 50, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 146, Agastya Khashu 61; Eshikesh Raju A 3-33, Ved Mishra 2-38) bt Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2): 55 all out in 9.2 overs (Vinjamuri Rushyanth 5-8, Arya Ayyappan 4-18).
Swastic Union Cricket Club (1): 198/9 in 50 overs (Saachin Suresh Araganji 42, Aadyot Pandey 63; Soumith Kongara 3-36, Ramnath Nayak 2-37, Shoubhit Shreyan Pani 2-22) lt to Jayanagar United Cricketers: 199/ 4 in 28.4 overs (Trishaan Sethi 108, Samarth Gautam Rayabagi 42, Niyanta Santosh Kulkarni 2-36).
Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (1): 247/9 in 50 overs (Advay Choudhary 25, Rupankar Nandi 68, Swastik Ekhe 50, Vivaan Balani 36 n.o.; Vivaan Tanay Desai 3-44, Gundala Lalit Ramanareddy 3-50) bt Jawans Cricket Club: 161 all out in 42.1 overs (Ashwath Reddy Gade 46, Arnav Rajiv VP 42; Siddharth Kona 2-25, Avyay 2-21, Swastik Ekhe 3-31, Tejasvi Sharma 2-32).
Young Lions Club: 218/9 in 50 overs (Deekshith Gowda HD 36, Kushal Gowda A 69; Yashkumar Nishad 2-60, Aarav Gandhi 2-42) bt Cambridge Cricket Club: 160 all out in 33.4 overs (Aarav Gandhi 28 n.o., Samrudh Girish 37; Vignesh Subhramaniyan 4-27, Usman Shareef 2-23, Jeevan G 4-27).
RVCE Gymkhana: 273/6 in 50 overs (Aarush P Puthran 76, Avaneesha SN 25, P Lithik Reddy 82, Skandha D Shetty 35 n.o.; Sampath Kumar M 2-42, Arush Malvankar 2-52) bt Dooravani Cricketers (1): 185 all out in 42.5 overs (Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 48, Sampath Kumar M 29, Harshan V 34 n.o., James Patel 3-29, Viswajeet Prashant Jadhav 3-44, Ujwal Krishna B 2-29).
Herons Cricket Club: 230/9 in 50 overs (Niraj V 69, Jaswanth N 31, Akhilesh Pradhan 38, Pratham Nayak M 2-23, Saket Chandramouli 3-42, Tanuj M 2-47) bt Whirlwind Cricketers: 155 all out in 46.5 overs (Shubhan Hiremath 28, Rithesh MT 25; Kodatala Sai Shravan Reddy 2-23, Arav Vijay 4-24, P Yateesh 2-35, Akhilesh Pradhan 2-8).

Jai Bharath Nagar score big victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jai Bharath Nagar FC found as many as five scorers in their 5-0 walloping of Bangalore Muslims in a Group 2 match of the BDFA C Division League Championships at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

Results: Group 1: Gouthamma: 2 (Nagaraj 16th, Santhosh 60+2) bt Misska United: 1 (Vungjalien 53rd); Indiranagar: 3 (Divyesh M 29th, Tony Raj G 37th, MD Shadab 87th) bt Maharaja Socials FC: 0.
Group 2: J Sports FC: 2 (Soothing Chichung 14th, Kushal Bahadur 26th) bt Town Club: 1 (Tanish Karan 24th); Jai Bharath Nagar FC: 5 (Yashas M 13th, Muhammed Maaz 22nd, Athul Dani Santhosh 28th, Manoj Kumar 43rd, Dhruva Kishore 55th) bt Bangalore Muslims FC: 0.
Group 3: Rovers FC: 2 (Puneeth 12th, Surya K 56th) bt Queens Star FC: 0; 515 Army Base Workshop FC: 1 (Roit 59th) bt Oriental FC: 0.

Indian Open Surfing from May 29

MANGALURU, PTI: The seventh edition of the Indian Open of Surfing will be held from May 29 to 31 at Blue Bay Tannirbhavi Eco Beach here, an event which will serve as vital preparation ahead of the country's Asian Games debut later this year.

Organised under the aegis of the Surfing Federation of India (SFI), the championship is expected to serve as a preparatory platform for surfers vying for places in India's contingent for the 2026 Asian Games, to be held in Japan's Aichi-Nagoya.

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026

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Aggregate Business (Gross) 2026 ₹ 1,92,118.67 Cr. 2025 ₹ 1,82,766.21 Cr. Y.O.Y. Growth 5.12 %
GNPA 2026 2.78 % 2025 3.08 % Y.O.Y. Reduction 30 bps
Net Profit 2026 ₹ 1,310.50 Cr. 2025 ₹ 1,272.37 Cr. Y.O.Y. Growth 3 %
NNPA 2026 0.98 % 2025 1.31 % Y.O.Y. Reduction 33 bps
CRAR 2026 20.07 % 2025 19.85 % Y.O.Y. Growth 22 bps
CASA 2026 33.61 % 2025 31.75 % Y.O.Y. Growth 186 bps

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STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR / AS ON QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026 (₹ in crore)

Particulars	For / As on Quarter ended			For / As on Year ended	
	31-03-2026 (Audited)	31-12-2025 (Unaudited)	31-03-2025 (Audited)	31-03-2026 (Audited)	31-03-2025 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	2,656.18	2,522.35	2,686.69	10,320.72	10,283.12
Net Profit /(Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	524.70	356.94	343.94	1,658.10	1,640.60
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	524.70	356.94	343.94	1,658.10	1,640.60
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	408.19	290.79	252.37	1,310.50	1,272.37
Equity Share Capital	378.19	378.15	377.95	378.19	377.95
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	12,265.85		11,208.17	12,265.85	11,208.17
Securities Premium Account	2,685.77	2,685.09	2,683.74	2,685.77	2,683.74
Net Worth	12,644.04	12,287.00	11,586.12	12,644.04	11,586.12
Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Capital Redemption Reserve / Debenture Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Debt Equity Ratio	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.07
Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)					
Basic :	10.79*	7.69*	6.68*	34.66	33.69
Diluted :	10.78*	7.68*	6.66*	34.60	33.61

*Not annualized.
Note : The above is an extract of the detailed format of year ended results for March 31, 2026 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the results for March 31, 2026 is available on the Stock Exchange Websites. BSE : https://www.bseindia.com, NSE : https://www.nseindia.com, Bank Website : https://www.karnatakabank.bank.in/index.jsp.

CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR / AS ON QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026 (₹ in crore)

Particulars	For / As on Quarter ended			For / As on Year ended	
	31-03-2026 (Audited)	31-12-2025 (Unaudited)	31-03-2025 (Audited)	31-03-2026 (Audited)	31-03-2025 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	2,656.18	2,522.33	2,680.10	10,320.74	10,283.17
Net Profit /(Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	524.76	356.93	344.25	1,658.35	1,641.13
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	524.76	356.93	344.25	1,658.35	1,641.13
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	408.25	290.78	252.62	1,310.75	1,272.85
Equity Share Capital	378.19	378.15	377.95	378.19	377.95
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	12,265.62		11,207.69	12,265.62	11,207.69
Securities Premium Account	2,685.77	2,685.09	2,683.74	2,685.77	2,683.74
Net Worth	12,643.81	12,286.70	11,585.63	12,643.81	11,585.63
Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Capital Redemption Reserve / Debenture Redemption Reserve	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Debt Equity Ratio	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.07
Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each)					
Basic :	10.80*	7.69*	6.68*	34.67	33.70
Diluted :	10.78*	7.68*	6.67*	34.61	33.63

*Not annualized.
Note : The above is an extract of the detailed format of year ended results for March 31, 2026 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the results for March 31, 2026 is available on the Stock Exchange Websites. BSE : https://www.bseindia.com, NSE : https://www.nseindia.com, Bank Website : https://www.karnatakabank.bank.in/index.jsp.

Place : Mangaluru
Date : 19-05-2026

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/-
Raghavendra S Bhat
Managing Director & CEO

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Neymar handed a dramatic recall

Coach Ancelotti announces 26-man squad for World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, AFP

Neymar

Brazil superstar Neymar was handed a dramatic recall to the country's World Cup squad on Monday, returning to the national team after a near three-year absence.

The inclusion of Neymar, Brazil's all-time leading goalscorer with 79 goals in 128 appearances, was the biggest surprise in the 26-man squad named by coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Ancelotti announced Neymar's selection at a gala ceremony in Rio de Janeiro, with loud cheers ringing out as the veteran attacker's call-up was confirmed.

Speculation has raged for months over whether the 34-year-old former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain attacker would force his way back into the national team set-up.

The forward, a veteran of the 2014, 2018 and 2022 World Cups, had not played for Brazil since suffering knee injury during a World Cup qualifying game against Uruguay in 2023.

A mixture of injuries and poor form had left him outside the national team set-up, with Ancelotti citing concerns over his fitness.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Alisson, Ederson, Weverton. **Defenders:** Alex Sandro, Danilo, Leo Pereira, Bremer, Douglas Santos, Gabriel Magalhaes, Ibanez, Marquinhos, Wesley. **Midfielders:** Bruno Guimaraes, Casemiro, Danilo, Fabinho, Lucas Paqueta. **Forwards:** Endrick, Gabriel Martinelli, Igor Thiago, Luiz Henrique, Matheus Cunha, Neymar, Raphinha, Rayan, Vinicius Junior.

Ronaldo to play sixth WC

LISBON, AFP : Veteran Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo (**in pic**) will lead his country into the 2026 World Cup this summer after coach Roberto Martinez named the 41-year-old in his squad on Tuesday.

The former Real Madrid and Manchester United star, now at Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr, is set to appear at a record sixth World Cup.

Portugal and Ronaldo, the all-time leading men's international goalscorer with 143 goals, have never won it.

Ronaldo could face Argentine rival Lionel Messi, who is also set to play at a sixth World Cup after winning it in Qatar in 2022.

The Portuguese forward avoided a three-match ban despite being sent off against the Republic of Ireland in their last qualifying match for an elbow.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Diogo Costa, Jose Sa, Rui Silva, Ricardo Velho. **Defenders**: Diogo Dalot, Matheus Nunes, Ruben Dias, Nelson Semedo, Joao Cancelo, Nuno Mendes, Goncalo Inacio, Renato Veiga, Tomas Araujo. **Midfielders**: Ruben Neves, Samu Costa, Joao Neves, Vitinha, Bruno Fernandes, Bernardo Silva. **Attackers**: Cristiano Ronaldo, Joao Felix, Francisco Trincao, Francisco Conceicao, Pedro Neto, Rafael Leao, Goncalo Guedes, Goncalo Ramos.

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Arsenal on the cusp of glory

Gunners beat Burnley to stay in front with a game left

LONDON, AFP

Arsenal are on the brink of ending a 22-year wait to win the Premier League after beating Burnley 1-0 on Monday to open up a five-point lead at the top.

Kai Havertz headed in the only goal but was also lucky to avoid a second-half red card that could have swung the title race back in Manchester City's favour.

The Gunners could be crowned champions as early as Tuesday should City fail to win at Bournemouth.

Even if City do end the Cherries' 16-game unbeaten run and beat Aston Villa, Arsenal will secure the title with victory at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

"One more to go," said Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta. "We have done our job, what is in our hands. We have to wait and see what is going to happen tomorrow and then it's time to prepare for the Palace game."

However, the narrow margin of victory against a Burnley side that have long since been relegated does offer City hope.

An Arsenal draw at Selhurst Park would allow City to snatch the title on goal difference if Pep Guardiola's team win their final two matches.

To add extra intrigue to the final days of the season, reports on Monday suggest Guardiola will leave City after a decorated decade in charge after Villa visit the Etihad on Sunday.

Roared on by an expectant capacity crowd in their final home game of the season, Arsenal were tipped to put the Clarets to the sword with ease.

Burnley have taken just two points from their last 10 matches but made Arteta's men work for the three points on another nervy night at the Emirates.

Leandro Trossard struck the post from the edge of the area before Bukayo Saka saw a penalty appeal waived away as he attempted to turn in Havertz's low cross.

Arsenal were forced to rely on their set-piece threat once more to prise Burnley open.

Havertz rose highest to power in Saka's delivery on 37 minutes as they scored from a corner for the 18th time in the league this season.

Result: Arsenal: 1 (Havertz 18th) bt Burnley: 0.

Arsenal's Kai Havertz (left) heads to score against Burnley during their Premier League clash at the Emirates Stadium on Monday. AFP

Pep set to leave Man City

Pep Guardiola is set to bring his trophy-laden decade in charge of Manchester City to an end this weekend, according to multiple reports on Monday.

Guardiola, 55, has won six Premier League titles and City's first Champions League among 20 trophies since arriving in 2016.

The Daily Mail and The Athletic reported that Pep will step down after the Aston Villa match. City have made no comment on the speculation but have arranged a parade through Manchester on Monday.

Aston Villa seek to end trophy drought

LONDON, AFP

Aston Villa are taking inspiration from the club's former European champions as they seek to end their 30-year trophy drought in the Europa League final against Freiburg on Wednesday.

Unai Emery's side head to Istanbul with history in their sights in their first major European final for 44 years.

Villa famously defied the odds to shock Bayern Munich in the 1982 European Cup final, thanks to Peter Withe's clinical finish.

Looking to emulate Withe's celebrated moment, Villa striker Ollie Watkins said he would seek out footage of the winner against Bayern as he prepared to face German underdogs Freiburg at the Besiktas Stadium.

Aston Villa striker Ollie Watkins will be looking to fire on all cylinders when they take on Freiburg in the Europa Cup final on Wednesday. AFP

"I haven't actually seen Withe's winner, but I'm going to. I'm going to look back at it in these next few days before the final as inspiration," Watkins said.

"I think Peter is a legend. I've met him quite a few times. He came into the training ground last week to watch.

"It's amazing that he can do that and that we can have a legend around the place."

The decades since Bayern were beaten on that golden evening in Rotterdam have not always been kind to Villa.

They were twice relegated to the second tier, in 1987 and 2016, and have lost all four of their domestic final appearances since defeating Leeds to win the 1996 League Cup.

Praggu draws with So, stays joint second

BUCHAREST, PTI: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out his fourth draw, signing peace with American Wesley So in the fifth round of the Super Chess Classic, a part of the Grand Chess Tour.

On a day without any decisive games, Germany's Vincent Keymer maintained his half-point lead, moving up to 3.5 points. Praggnanandhaa shares the second spot with Dutch duo of Anish Giri and Jorden Van Foreest.

France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Wesley So share fifth place on 2.5 points each, while Fabiano Caruana (USA) and World Championship challenger Javokhir Sindarov trail closely on two points, with the latter having one game in hand.

Romanian Bogdan-Daniel Deac is ninth spot on 1.5 points, a half point ahead of Alireza Firouzja of France.

In the other games of the day, Keymer drew with the black pieces against Giri, Vachier-Lagrave shared the point with van Foreest, Sindarov drew with Firouzja, and Deac held Caruana to a draw. Firouzja returned to the tournament after missing the previous round.

Results (round 5): Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2.5) drew with Jorden Van Foreest (Ned, 3); Wesley So (USA, 2.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3); Bogdan-Daniel Deac (Rou, 1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 2); Aiireza Firouzja (Fra, 1) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 2); Anish Giri (Ned, 3) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5).

R Praggnanandhaa

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With global supply chains facing disruptions due to the war in West Asia, citizens are being urged to use petrol, diesel and gas with "greater restraint" to safeguard the Indian economy.
It was suggested to resume work-from-home practices, use public transport and reduce fuel consumption so that India can conserve vital

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